United Nations

A/65/PV.23

# General Assembly

Sixty-fifth session

*Official Records*

**23**rd plenary meeting
Wednesday, 29 September 2010, 9 a.m.
New York

*President:* Mr. Deiss ..... (Switzerland)

*The meeting was called to order at 9.10 a.m.*

**Agenda item 8 (*continued*)**

**General debate**

**The President** (*spoke in French*): I now call on His Excellency Mr. Wilfred Elrington, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Belize.

**Mr. Elrington** (Belize): Please permit me, Sir, on behalf of the Belize delegation to congratulate you on your election to the presidency of the sixty-fifth session of the United Nations General Assembly. As much as our peoples share common values of peace and democracy, your country and my own could not be more different. Switzerland is landlocked with a land mass twice the size and a population 25 times that of my coastal country. Belize has a $1 billion economy and Switzerland has a $400 billion economy. Nominal gross domestic product per capita in Switzerland is estimated at $67,000, while in Belize that figure is roughly $4,000.

I bring up the differences between Belize and Switzerland because they are illustrative of the stark differences that epitomize today's world. We in this Hall tout sovereign equality, but we experience social and economic disparity on a daily basis, across the globe. Inequality persists between nations and within nations. Poverty proliferates in the midst of plenty.

In my own country, although real output per capita grew over the past 10 years, so too did the proportion of Belizeans living in poverty. In other words, we experienced growth without the commensurate development of our people.

Belize accepts that development is a matter of national responsibility. However, our contemporary reality now renders questions that were hitherto matters of national concern, matters of global concern. As a consequence of globalization, the management capacity of a State has diminished. Our macroeconomic policy and fiscal capacity cannot adequately address the multiple exogenous shocks occasioned, inter alia, by the triumvirate of the financial, food and fuel crises.

Adequate and appropriate international support at this time is therefore critical if we are to avoid drifting further and further away from the attainment of our development goals. In that connection, developed nations urgently need to make good their promise to deliver 0.7 per cent of their GDP for official development assistance (ODA).

For Belize, meaningful international support is becoming increasingly harder to come by because of our designation as a middle-income country. While we continue to benefit from ODA and foreign direct investment in our quest to further integrate Belize into the global economy, for the most part expensive foreign and local commercial debt has in fact fuelled the country's development strategy.

Thus, in the past 15 years, Belize has built up a high level of public debt, with high-cost long-term financing. The ratio of public debt to GDP grew steadily, from about 27 per cent in 1995 to 70.3 per cent in 2008, with a peak of 87 per cent in 2005. That

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debt-led strategy, which was the model of many other countries, will surely become an unwelcome and unwanted burden for our children.

Perennial debt-servicing obligations constrain my Government's capacity to increase social investments, especially in those areas where they are most needed. It is therefore not surprising that Belize finds itself off track in meeting Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) on poverty, hunger, education and the empowerment of women. Considering the synergies between Goals, slippage in one threatens the achievement of others.

The terms of engagement between international financial institutions and middle-income countries must be revised if countries such as my own are to break away from the vicious cycle of debt-led development. While those terms will necessarily have to provide for suitable risk-mitigation strategies, they should not be so burdensome as to constrain our policy space. They must respect the national ownership of our development initiatives. International cooperation and support therefore must complement, rather than dictate, the way forward.

While Belize's traditional donors have long provided valuable assistance, for which we will always be grateful, we are now benefiting from new modalities of cooperation, which are yielding more direct and immediate returns for our people. Belize's cooperation experience with Taiwan exemplifies a model of cooperation based on partnership. With the help of the Government of Taiwan, Belize has steadily developed its capacity in agricultural research, aquaculture, education and social-sector investment.

In the Latin American and Caribbean region, cooperation has long been based on that approach. Belize has benefited immensely from partnerships with Cuba, Brazil, Mexico and Venezuela. Of special significance is the cooperation in the health sector. In fact, today the progress that we can claim on the health-related MDGs is a testament, in part, to those partnerships.

Beyond our hemispheric relations, we are forging new partnerships. We recently received two years' worth of emergency relief materials from the United Arab Emirates, for which we are most appreciative, given the frequency of hurricane visitations to our shores in recent years. Through those partnerships, Belize is being enabled to pursue its broader national development objectives. Our experience is being replicated the world over, as we see in other examples of South-South cooperation. We need now to make those partnerships the standard for global cooperation.

At the United Nations, we have long focused on official development assistance as being synonymous with global partnerships. That myopic view needs to be broadened, and we must disabuse ourselves of the donor-driven dialectic. The United Nations has the responsibility to craft a new orientation, from a donor-recipient culture to one of true partnership with mutual respect.

As every speaker in this debate has emphasized, in order for this institution to meet that challenge, it must itself reform.

Current decision-making structures and organization tend towards a North-South polarity. That dynamic imperils cooperation and renders debate more ceremony than meaningful dialogue. Over the 65 years of the United Nations existence, our world has changed. We are dealing with new realities. The Organization is nearly universal, with 192 countries represented here. The club of nuclear-power States has expanded, and may yet continue to expand. Global integration has deepened with technology, market liberalization and the freer movement of capital. Our interdependence has generated global systemic risks.

We need a United Nations that reflects more equitable North-South representation and that can effectively deliver. That means that the organs of the United Nations must be reformed. The process of decision-making must ensure coherence and be inclusive. Above all, equity and justice must inform our mechanisms for delivery. The reform we seek goes much deeper than the changing of the guards; it is a reform that would rebuild trust among each other and confidence in the system.

Belize is crafting a twenty-first century vision for a modern, green and sustainable economy predicated on capacity-building, human dignity, human development and innovation. Our Government is working towards building domestic capital through social investments, job creation, improved access to credit and combating crime and violence.

To that end, we have launched project Restore Belize, which encompasses a comprehensive anti-crime initiative complemented by a socio-economic

component aimed at restoring the social fabric of our society through the provision of skills training, continuing education for adults, infrastructure development and fostering civic pride. We have instituted school feeding programmes, subsidies for students of secondary schools, seed programmes for farmers and capitalization of our own development finance corporation for onward lending to entrepreneurs.

The Government has also undertaken a national multiparty and multisectoral consultative process to redefine our national development objectives in our Horizon 2030 project. In addition, the Prime Minister has established a council of science advisers to better inform the Horizon 2030 process on the integration of science and technology in the national development agenda.

Belize is resolutely embracing its responsibility for its national development. Our efforts are aimed towards ensuring that we achieve the type of development that genuinely affords all our people the opportunity to realize their true potential with dignity. To that end, we seek only empathy and partnership from the United Nations, not charity.

**The President** (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. S. M. Krishna, Minister for External Affairs of India.

**Mr. Krishna** (India): Allow me to begin by congratulating you, Sir, on your election as President of the General Assembly and by assuring you of the full cooperation of my delegation. In the interest of saving the Assembly's valuable time, I will read out only part of my address, the full text of which has been circulated.

The United Nations was created, 65 years ago, to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, to affirm faith in fundamental rights, to establish conditions under which respect for international law can be maintained and to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom. Six and a half decades later, globalization has made the world a much smaller place. It has also created conditions whereby the problems and challenges of one country or region can very quickly become those of the larger community of nations.

Terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, maritime piracy, pandemics and epidemics, organized crime and narcotics smuggling recognize no borders or boundaries. Similarly, the fallout of intra-State conflicts, failed States, climate change, natural disasters, food shortages and financial and economic crises transcend countries and regions. Under those circumstances the international community looks to the United Nations to overcome the common challenges of humankind through the harmonized actions of nations, as stated in the Charter.

The United Nations is the only organization that can be at the centre of an international governance system. However, it needs urgent reform to reflect contemporary realities and to effectively meet emerging global challenges. The first step has to be the reform of the Security Council. The overwhelming majority of the membership has been clear in seeking an expansion in both the permanent and non-permanent categories of membership. It is imperative that we bring the negotiations to an early and logical conclusion.

We must also truly revitalize the General Assembly. It must reclaim its position on vital matters such as the appointment of the Secretary-General and the relationship between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions. Along with the Economic and Social Council, the General Assembly should also set the paradigms of multilateral engagement for the global economy and for development and developmental cooperation.

It is matter of much satisfaction that this year we have significantly advanced the United Nations reform agenda in the areas of gender equality and women's empowerment. I wish to reiterate our strong commitment to UN Women and to its strengthening.

We also need to ensure that the review of the Human Rights Council this year adds to the Council's role as an effective, credible and premier United Nations mechanism dealing with human rights.

My Government accords the highest priority to the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals. Our development challenges were exacerbated by the financial and economic crisis that started in 2008. Acting in concert, the Group of 20 (G-20), which includes the largest developed and developing countries, reacted promptly and purposefully to stem the global slowdown and send a strong message of confidence and stability. India believes that the G-20 — the premier forum for international economic

cooperation — can help catalyse strong, balanced and sustainable growth for the benefit of everyone.

As a country vulnerable to, and already suffering from, the impacts of climate change, India has an important stake in the success of ongoing international negotiations in that regard. There is no substitute to the United Nations-led process, with its inherent inclusiveness and transparency, to lead us to an ambitious and equitable outcome that respects the provisions and principles of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, in particular the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. It is important that there be acceptance of equal sharing of the resource of the atmosphere for all human beings.

India has an abiding commitment to achieve universal and non-discriminatory nuclear disarmament within a specified time frame — a vision that was most eloquently articulated in the Assembly by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in 1988. More than two decades later, that goal still remains distant. Meanwhile, newer threats have emerged, including the danger of terrorists gaining access to weapons of mass destruction.

India introduced a working paper on nuclear disarmament in 2006, which contained specific proposals that reflect the spirit and substance of the Rajiv Gandhi action plan. We call for an intensification of discussion and dialogue among Member States and the larger non-governmental community, so as to strengthen an international consensus that can be translated into concrete action to achieve nuclear disarmament.

India remains committed to the negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament on a multilateral, non-discriminatory and internationally verifiable fissile material cut-off treaty that meets India's national security interests. We hope that the Conference will be able to commence negotiations at an early date. We remain committed to a unilateral and voluntary moratorium on nuclear-explosives testing.

Terrorism has emerged as one of the most serious threats to international peace and security. To defeat it, it is imperative for the global community to build on international cooperation and take concerted action against terrorists and their sponsors. There can be no justification for terrorism, just as there can be no good or bad terrorists. We urge Member States to display the necessary political will to finalize and adopt the comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

Peace and stability in South Asia is one of our highest priorities. We are committed to good-neighbourly relations with all our neighbours, including Pakistan. In that spirit of solidarity with the people of Pakistan in their hour of need we pledged $25 million in aid, which is being channelled through the United Nations for flood relief efforts in that country. As a neighbour, we wish to provide succour and relief in a timely manner to the victims of that natural disaster. We are saddened by the loss of life and property that Pakistan has suffered as a result of the unprecedented floods.

It is well known that many countries have deep-rooted concerns about the growth and consolidation of militancy and terrorism in Pakistan. We share those concerns, particularly because Jammu and Kashmir, which is an integral part of India, has been the target of such Pakistan-sponsored militancy and terrorism for many years now. Pakistan must fulfil its solemn commitment not to allow territory under its control to be used for terrorism directed against India. Credible and firm action by Pakistan against terrorist groups operating from its soil is in the interest of the region, as it is in Pakistan's own interest.

Pakistan cannot impart lessons to us on democracy and human rights. If, however, Pakistan were to live up to its commitment not to allow the use of territory under its control by terrorists acting against India, that would significantly help reduce the trust deficit that impedes the development of better bilateral relations between our two countries. We are neighbours, and as neighbours we have an obligation to work together.

Afghanistan recently successfully concluded parliamentary elections. We believe the international community needs to be steadfast in its engagement with Afghanistan to ensure the success of its reconstruction efforts and its emergence as a democratic, pluralistic and prosperous society. The continuing existence of safe havens and sanctuaries for terrorists beyond Afghanistan's borders is the major impediment to the restoration of peace and security in Afghanistan. That should be a primary focus of the international community.

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, India's first Prime Minister, said in 1948:

> "The fundamental principles on which the United Nations is based are right principles. We believe in those fundamental principles and want to help the Organization in following these principles."

The Government and the more than 1 billion people of India have stood by that commitment. I would like to solemnly reaffirm our faith in the principles that underlie the United Nations, and in the United Nations system itself.

**The President** (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Luis Almagro, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Uruguay.

**Mr. Almagro** (Uruguay) (*spoke in Spanish*): Our goals at the national level are goals we also want to see achieved in the international community. They are goals that the international community must tackle as priorities. They include eradicating indigence and reducing and eliminating poverty and its root causes, as well as ensuring a dignified life and favourable working conditions for all. We also want an international system that is more democratic and efficient. We want the issues that I have mentioned to be resolved through cross-cutting policies. We can work to promote democracy in every country of the system, but we are badly off indeed if the law of the strongest prevails in the overall system.

Uruguay will always take a moral and ethical approach to every issue, whether with regard to the environment, human rights or international security. In every instance, the ultimate guide is the human person. We must in the end, therefore, always rely on our conscience. However, the functioning of the system is crucial, for that is what generates social, territorial and gender inequality.

At the outset, we welcome the election of the Argentine Republic as Chair of the Group of 77 and China. Argentina is a brotherly country that shares common principles and values with us.

Uruguay, in keeping with its historical path and traditions, reaffirms its commitment to the principles of international law. I would like to underscore in particular our firm support for the peaceful solution of conflicts; the sovereign equality of States; the principles of non-intervention and of the self-determination of peoples; respect for human rights; international socio-economic cooperation; and multilateralism. The maximum expression of those principles is to be found in this Organization.

I would also like to express our rejection of the use or the threat of use of force, of terrorism and of all types of violence, and of the application of coercive measures in contravention of the Charter of the United Nations, such as the economic, financial and trade embargo against Cuba by the United States, which we firmly reject. That unilateral measure is contrary, not only to the Charter but also to international law and to one of the most dearly held principles of my country's foreign policy, namely, the peaceful settlements of disputes.

Uruguay is party to the principal international conventions relating to the environment and sustainable development. Thus, we have reaffirmed our responsibility for the protection of the environment as a human right and a fundamental component for achieving truly sustainable development.

Uruguay has a long history of defending, promoting and protecting human rights and international humanitarian law. Those principles are a central priority of the State, enshrined in the traditional pillars of the Republic's foreign policy, which constitute the political and institutional foundations of the country. We welcome the progress made this year in Kampala, Uganda, which has led to the strengthening of the regime established under the Statute of the International Criminal Court. Uruguay is among the countries that have subscribed to the widest range of conventions in the area of human rights and international humanitarian law.

Uruguay's long-standing tradition of defending those principles has allowed us to take a leading role in, among other areas, the protection and promotion of the rights of children. We believe it is vitally important that we continue to focus our efforts to promote the defence and protection of children and to ensure their well-being.

We also reaffirm our full support for the integration of a gender perspective into all policies and programmes of the United Nations system. In that respect, we welcome the adoption of the resolution (resolution 64/289) on the coherence of the United Nations system, which, in particular, created the new United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. We would also like to express our satisfaction with the appointment of

Ms. Michelle Bachelet, former President of Chile, as Under-Secretary-General for UN Women. We are confident that her experience will serve as a vital asset for the new Entity.

Uruguay has a steadfast commitment to the cause of peace and our country's foreign policy bears testimony to that fact. We have given decisive support to all measures aimed at the elimination of nuclear arms and other weapons of mass destruction. We have also advocated the control and reduction of conventional weapons. We underscore, once again, the importance of the swift universal implementation of these agreements.

Likewise, and without prejudice to the reaffirmation of our hope to see a Nuclear Weapons Convention, we believe that the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and a fissile material cut-off treaty during the present year, would constitute decisive steps in the consolidation and deepening of the progress made in the area of disarmament. We must not stop, because to stop is to go backwards, and to go backwards is to expose humanity to the horrendous and unacceptable risk of nuclear holocaust.

It is our hope that, in 2012, a conference will be held, without further delay or conditions, in which all of the States of the Middle East will participate, with the aim of establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone, free of all other weapons of mass destruction as well, through freely agreed arrangements between the States of the region, with the full support and commitment of those States that possess nuclear weapons. Similarly, Uruguay supports the Secretary-General's five-point initiative for a world free of nuclear weapons.

Uruguay actively participates in the United Nations multilateral system of peacekeeping and maintenance of international security, as well as in efforts to defend human rights and uphold international humanitarian law through peacekeeping operations, based on our conviction that these are a solid testimony to the collective commitment of the international community as a whole. That commitment on the part of my country can be seen both on the ground, through our deployment of more than 2,500 Blue Helmets, deployed principally in Haiti and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and in its work on the political level here at Headquarters.

We recognize that the Security Council holds the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. But we believe it is extremely important to promote a closer relationship between the Council and the General Assembly. The greater the distance between them, the more difficult it is for peacekeeping operations to achieve their objectives and for their complex mandates to be effectively implemented.

In this respect, the existing gap between the complexity of the mandates and the resources available poses a challenge that we must confront every day. We are convinced that is of fundamental importance for us to ensure that adequate consideration is given to the allocation of the resources needed for the proper functioning of those operations. The conditions offered by the system also need to be updated, so that the United Nations has at its disposal the equipment and human resources that it needs. That subject affects developing countries in particular, since it is they which provide the large majority of the troops and thus the viability of their participation in missions is at stake.

The case of Haiti probably provides one of the best illustrations of the need for a cross-cutting political effort to lift a country out of a situation of crisis and institutional and social stagnation.

Uruguay has never been indifferent to the challenges that this brotherly country has had to confront and continues to confront today. From 2004 to date, we have deployed more than 10,000 military personnel to the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti, who have faithfully carried out the mandate approved by the Security Council for the stabilization process in that country.

In its role as coordinator of the Group of Friends of Haiti, Uruguay has for some years been advocating for a mandate that, without neglecting the urgent security needs, permits at the same time the establishment of the conditions necessary for strengthening the productive capacity of the country, which was seriously affected by the earthquake of 12 January 2010.

In our view, greater emphasis should be placed on providing teachers, doctors, engineers, agronomists, experts in information technologies and volunteer workers, who could contribute effectively to solving the problems of the Haitian population. Investing in

human resources in Haiti is of fundamental importance for the future development of the country.

Over the past two years, there has been an open process of restructuring the peacekeeping system, which was necessary given the new reality that we are facing. That process must be viewed as part of a larger project of reform of the Organization, which, through various initiatives, seeks to be more effective, to work in a more coordinated manner and to enjoy greater legitimacy.

Uruguay reiterates its adherence to that process of reform of the United Nations. The process, begun during the 2005 Summit, which gave rise to the creation of two new structures within the Organization — the Human Rights Council and the Peacebuilding Commission — should be brought to completion through the consideration of various outstanding topics, including the reform of the Security Council. The current international reality is such that that body needs to be more representative and democratic. We must therefore take steps to effect its expansion, while guarding against an extension of the historical obstacles that run contrary to the principle of the sovereign equality of States, such as the right of veto.

A very clear example of Uruguay's commitment to the United Nations reform process, which seeks to establish greater effectiveness and coordination within the system, is its direct participation in the "Delivering as One" programme. Three years after the pilot programme was launched in Uruguay, we have recently completed the country evaluation and can affirm that the design, implementation, follow-up and evaluation of the process have contributed to the national Government's efforts to strengthen the coordination among the various State bodies through a joint programming exercise, which made possible greater interaction between agencies, the Government and the United Nations system.

Uruguay has formally expressed its aspiration to occupy a seat as a non-permanent member of the Security Council for the period 2016-2017. We are the only candidate country in the region at the present time. Since its accession to the United Nations as a founding Member and despite having pursued a foreign policy inspired by the same purposes, principles and ideals enshrined in the United Nations Charter, Uruguay has occupied a seat in the Security Council only once, which was during the period 1965-1966.

Presenting one's candidacy to the body in which the international community has entrusted the current global collective security system constitutes the most demanding test of a State's foreign policy. In the present context, which is profoundly marked by multiple global crises, it is imperative that we work jointly towards building long-term strategies and solutions that will lead us to more just and equitable societies.

In that regard, the role of the United Nations in international economic and financial governance is fundamental in terms of democratizing decision-making and ensuring equal participation in global decisions that affect us all and directly impact strategic planning in the short, medium and long term. Coordinated, transparent and harmonious decision-making is essential for achieving tangible results that improve the living conditions and situation of the world's citizens. Our country deems it important to promote dialogue in order to foster bridge-building among the various decision-making forums.

We must be aware that without a healthy natural environment, all other development efforts will have a limited effect. In that context, the global phenomenon of climate change is perhaps the most urgent and dramatic challenge currently facing humanity. It poses additional challenges to development and forces us to urgently consider the need to implement measures to adapt to and mitigate its adverse effects. Such measures require changes in production methods and seriously compromise the distribution of domestic resources.

Achieving sustainable development that takes into account the economic, social and environmental dimensions is fundamental to ensuring long-term results and a healthy environment for present and future generations as well as sustained economic growth. That goal is also a necessary precondition for reducing disparities between the developed world and the developing world, particularly in the quality of life, income distribution and human development indicators.

In closing, Uruguay would like to reaffirm the imperative necessity of renewed political commitment aimed at achieving an open and equitable multilateral trade system based on clear rules that would permit all countries to benefit from the potential provided by international trade as the engine of development.

Hunger eradication, food production and agricultural trade are closely related and must be strengthened through a predictable multilateral system that provides guarantees to producers and ensures food availability to the most vulnerable sectors. In that context, the elimination of subsidies and other non-tariff barriers that hinder access to markets is essential, as is a successful conclusion of the Doha Round based on a development perspective.

**The President** (*spoke in French*): I give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Jean-Marie Kacou Gervais, Minister for Foreign Affairs and African Integration of Côte d'Ivoire.

**Mr. Kacou Gervais** (Côte d'Ivoire) (*spoke in French*): I would like to congratulate you, Sir, on your brilliant election to the presidency of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly. That election is a sign of the unanimous recognition of your personal commitment to promote the role of this Organization and to defend its ideals. It is also the crowning moment in a talented diplomatic career that you have led with skill and tact. It is therefore to you as a skilled diplomat that I would like to pay warm homage.

It is also my pleasure to express to your predecessor, His Excellency Mr. Ali Abdussalam Treki, my delegation's appreciation for the quality of the work he undertook and the results achieved under his presidency. Finally, allow me to pay tribute to the Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, for his personal commitment and tireless efforts to support peace and development throughout the world. Furthermore, I wish to convey my deep gratitude to him as well as the gratitude of His Excellency Mr. Laurent Gbagbo, President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, as well as that of the people and Government of Côte d'Ivoire for his commitment to reach a settlement of the crisis in Côte d'Ivoire.

By proposing the theme of reaffirming the United Nations central role in global governance for this session, Mr. President, you celebrate the primacy of multilateralism over unilateralism as a method for managing global affairs in the best possible manner. Moreover, you are transforming our Organization into the forum of choice for dealing with issues of global concern. That vision is, without any doubt, in line with that of developing countries in general and my country, Côte d'Ivoire, in particular and can only take shape if the United Nations retains its credibility by adapting to an international context that has considerably changed since its founding in 1945. This requires urgent and thorough reform, because we believe that our Organization has resisted the widespread changes in the world that it was established to serve.

Because the United Nations is at the crossroads of all of the world's problems, it is here that we can fully assess what has happened since it was founded. This is the appropriate place to assess the progress achieved as well as the failings. It is also here that we can envisage solutions to problems that now confront the world. Those issues include poverty, which is the source of all evils, and which remains an open wound on humanity, which continues to make progress to the point where it is already considering human settlements on the moon. But unfortunately, at the same time, humanity is forgetting that more than a billion men and women across the planet Earth suffer from hunger. Women's lives are lost as they give life. Millions of children die before reaching the age of 5, and access to drinking water is limited in Africa. The AIDS epidemic and the malaria epidemic kill more people than all the wars combined. If the world is powerless, the United Nations must be adapted to provide proper responses to those imbalances, because there are not two worlds, there is just one world, which is our common heritage. Managing that world must be done in a joint manner, and it must be shared equitably. The United Nations must demonstrate the example and show the path forward.

In that regard, my country's position has remained unchanged. For Côte d'Ivoire, that long-sought reform must aim for balance in the main bodies of the United Nations, including in particular a larger Security Council and improvement in its working methods. That is why my delegation places much hope in the successful outcome of the intergovernmental negotiations that were launched by the General Assembly on reform of the Organization in general and the Security Council in particular.

This session of the Assembly is taking place at a moment when the global economy is beginning a fragile recovery, following the most serious economic crisis the world has faced since the Great Depression of the 1930s. That crisis has shown, and indeed has exacerbated, the vulnerability of integrated world economies, ruined development efforts and threatened collective security. Many countries, mainly developing countries, are continuing to suffer the effects of the

crisis through a drop in the purchasing power of their people, the growing shortage of official development assistance, falling foreign direct investment and growth in unemployment.

If, as the experts tell us, the global economy has begun to recover this year, it nevertheless continues to be fragile, with a growth rate of a mere 2.2 per cent. In such a situation, we must seek, in solidarity and by combining our efforts, the most appropriate solutions to consolidate that tendency to growth. Meeting that fundamental requirement will allow us to establish throughout the world societies that are safer, more equitable, more inclusive and more stable.

My delegation therefore calls on the industrialized countries to make a reality of their commitments with regard to developing countries, especially in terms of official development assistance, if the developing countries are to reach the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015.

Côte d'Ivoire also hopes to see the diligent implementation of the conclusions of the United Nations Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development, which was held here from 24 to 26 June 2009, particularly those calling for reform and strengthening of the financial and economic system and of the international financial architecture in order to adapt them to current difficulties. It also desires that that reform should not only allow developing countries in general and those of Africa in particular to have more adequate representation in international financial institutions, but should also promote economic and financial policies that are better adapted to their needs.

Along those lines, I would like to pay tribute to the summit of the Group of Eight (G-8) held in June 2010 in Muskoka, Canada, which reaffirmed, inter alia, the commitments of the G-8 with regard to official development assistance and the guarantee of aid effectiveness. It called for the effective mobilization of all public and private resources for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. It also emphasized the urgent need for collective action to achieve the MDGs, particularly improvement in maternal health and reduction of infant mortality.

On that specific point, my delegation would like to welcome the creation within the United Nations system of UN Women, a special body responsible for gender issues and the advancement of women. That new body and the establishment of a trust fund to support initiatives for women is a real cause for hope for developing countries, particularly those in Africa, in their struggle against poverty, discrimination and social inequalities. In that connection, I wish to warmly congratulate Ms. Michelle Bachelet on her appointment to head UN Women and assure her of the full cooperation of the authorities of Côte d'Ivoire in fulfilling her mandate.

Food insecurity, which now affects more than 1 billion people, mainly in developing countries, is a major and immediate obstacle to development and a threat to world peace and security.

In the face of that situation, for which the entire international community is responsible, we need to find innovative, effective and lasting solutions in terms of financing for agriculture. My delegation welcomes the efforts being made by the World Bank, regional development banks and the specialized funds and agencies of the United Nations for financing the agricultural sector. Similarly, it welcomes the launching in 2009 of the L'Aquila Food Security Initiative, which allowed the G-8 to mobilize $22 billion to finance agriculture in developing countries over a period of three years.

The delegation of Côte d'Ivoire welcomes, finally, the reform under way of the Committee on World Food Security and the launching of the Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme.

Similarly, I would like to recall the proposals made by President Laurent Gbagbo, at the meeting of the Group of 77 and China that was held in June 2008 at Yamoussoukro, to set up a mutual support mechanism for providing food products to importing countries by producing countries while aiming to create in the United Nations a stabilization fund for food products.

Climate change is rightly seen as a global problem and today represents a serious threat to humankind's equilibrium. It therefore requires clear and committed responses at the international level. Thus it is important that we rapidly find solutions that can ensure that future generations will have a world that is better balanced and guarantees a better future for humankind.

In that regard, the delegation of Côte d'Ivoire welcomes the significant progress of the United

Nations Conference on Climate Change, held from 7 to 18 December 2009 in Copenhagen. Although the principle of a legally binding accord to succeed the Kyoto Protocol after 2012 was not reached, the hopes promoted by that meeting largely justified its being held. Moreover, the significant progress achieved confirms us in that opinion.

Among the advances made we would mention, inter alia, the consensus on the goals for stabilizing the temperature rise at 2°C, the creation of a mechanism to mobilize financial resources for the absorption of greenhouse gas emissions by forests, and the commitment of developed countries to provide $30 billion for the period 2010 to 2012, and $100 billion as of 2020 for measures to adapt to climate change in developing countries.

The diligent implementation of those measures should allow vulnerable States such as my own to establish plans to combat climate change, which is becoming increasingly evident throughout the world in an upsurge in natural disasters related to drought, flooding and coastal erosion. The effects of all of those events on the health of populations and on the availability of land and potable water compromise the economic and social development of many States that have already been weakened by poverty and pandemics. The United Nations, in line with its Charter, has the duty to carry out the negotiations that were begun in Copenhagen and must work resolutely to that end.

Respect for human rights is a concern for my country, which has endorsed the set of international instruments in that regard. Though it was affected by the socio-political crisis, the human rights situation in my country is today on a path to normalization, thanks especially to the valuable help of national and international non-governmental organizations involved in that area. The international community could see that on 3 December 2009 in Geneva, when the Working Group on the universal periodic review took up Côte d'Ivoire. That review led to the adoption on 18 March 2010 of a final report that earned my country the support and encouragement of the States members of the Human Rights Council for our stated will to pursue efforts to improve human rights.

The persistence of numerous armed conflicts around the world continues to threaten international peace and security. Once again, the role of the United Nations is vital to resolving those conflicts, which are hindering the harmonious development of the world. That is particularly true in Africa, a region that, shaken by hotbeds of tension, cannot ensure its peaceful economic and social development, despite its enormous potential.

In that regard, allow me to stress how happy we are that the peace so much hoped for is now a reality in Côte d'Ivoire, following the implementation of the Ouagadougou Political Agreement, which will permit the organization of free, transparent and open elections. The first round of presidential elections has been set for 31 October 2010. Besides setting that date, the signing on 9 September 2010 of a presidential decree finalizing the ballot list allows for the distribution of national identity and voting cards to the 5,725,720 Ivorians who are on the list that has been validated by the Independent Electoral Commission and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Those signs of progress in the peace process and the proven determination of political players and the Ivorian people to move towards free, open and transparent elections allow us to envisage, with optimism, the holding of the presidential election on the appointed date and thus of Côte d'Ivoire emerging from its crisis.

On that hopeful note, I would like to conclude by recalling that the various crises of security, food, energy and finances, compounded by the threat of climate change, demonstrate the extent to which in the existence, balance and future development of humanity are now threatened more than ever. In that context the United Nations has a crucial role to play in strengthening indispensable international solidarity and in seeking effective, collective and appropriate solutions to those crises and challenges.

However, to be fully engaged with its time and to remain true to the objectives of its founding 65 years ago, the United Nations must adapt to the realities of the contemporary world if it wants to remain the guarantor of international peace and security and of the world's socio-economic development. To that end, we must strengthen the foundations of this Organization and — as the theme of this session invites us to do — reaffirm its central role in global governance. Côte d'Ivoire therefore calls for international solidarity so that our common Organization may find the necessary

solutions to offer to coming generations the hope of a fruitful and peaceful future.

**The President** (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Seyoum Mesfin, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.

**Mr. Mesfin** (Ethiopia): Allow me, Sir, at the outset, to extend to you my delegation's warm congratulations on your election to the presidency of the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session. I would like to assure you of my delegation's full cooperation in the discharge of your high responsibilities. My delegation would like to register our appreciation to the outgoing President, Mr. Ali Treki, for his able leadership during the sixty-fourth session. We would also like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, for his tireless efforts to ensure that the Organization lives up to the purposes and principles set out in its Charter.

Allow me to begin my statement today by reviewing some salient aspects of the political and economic transformation in Ethiopia.

Such a review should of necessity begin with the democratization process in Ethiopia, which is now almost completing its second decade. In the political transformation in Ethiopia over the past two decades, our single-minded focus has been on building institutions of democracy, good governance and the rule of law. The essence of all our endeavours in that regard has been the devolution of power to the people. Our federal democratic order, built on the basis of unity in diversity, has laid the foundation for lasting peace and security. The democratization process that Ethiopia has embarked on is irreversible and is taking deep root at the level of the State and the society at large.

Still, a democratization process in any country is not an end in itself. The whole purpose is to create an environment conducive to bringing about a better life for the people. That inevitably leads me to our economic policy and strategy. Today in our country accelerated development is in full swing, while a democratic culture and its institutional underpinnings are developing at the grass-roots level.

The successful results achieved during the last seven years and the challenges and experience gained in the process of implementing the previous five-year economic plan have helped in the formulation of the next five-year plan — officially called the Growth and Transformation Plan — covering the period of 2011 to 2015. The objective of that plan is to lay the necessary basis for nation-building by creating and strengthening a stable, democratic, developmental State and to achieve the economic and social goals in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

At the end of the five-year period the net result of all our efforts will be that poverty in our country has been made history. We are confident that by that time our people will celebrate, together with the international community, the end of an era of food insecurity and dependency on food aid. That historic event will give us an opportunity to extend our deep gratitude to all our partners for their assistance in our difficult times. We pledge to redouble our efforts and utilize their assistance for rapid development of our country that will extricate us from food insecurity once and for all.

As regards the Millennium Development Goals, the High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly, held here in New York just last week, was timely. The outcome document of that forum (resolution 65/1) should not be just an appeal but a new pact, binding on stakeholders with respect to renewed commitment to ensure that the collective promises made at the dawn of the new millennium are kept. The action agenda designed to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 must ensure the mutual responsibility and accountability of all stakeholders.

We in Ethiopia have made substantial progress on all fronts towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals. We have taken full charge of our destiny, devised our own strategy and maximized the mobilization of our domestic resources to achieve the MDGs. The results so far have been very encouraging. Over the past seven years, the Ethiopian economy has performed well, having achieved an annual average growth rate of 11.6 per cent. The robust economic growth we have achieved has created the basis for similarly robust growth in social indicators, and hence on progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

Assessing the state of the MDGs today would not be complete without some reflections on Africa from the perspective of economic and social development

and its organic link to the MDGs. In that connection, I can do no better than to refer to what Mr. Zoellick, President of the World Bank, said at the High-level Plenary Meeting on the MDGs (see A/65/PV.3). The most important point he made was that he believed in Africa and that Africa can be a global pole of growth and attract investment on African terms. That is what we have been saying all along. He also said that one needs to work with developing countries as clients, not as development models from textbooks, and to help them to solve problems, not to test theories. We in Africa know what we can do; we want to know what the rest of the world will do to help us achieve our goals.

The issue of climate change remains among the most critical challenges facing humankind today. Much has been said, from Rio to Kyoto to Copenhagen. What has been promised has thus far resulted in far less than the urgency of the matter merits. We believe that time is running out, and we are concerned that national agendas of zero-sum preferences are overshadowing the real urgency of addressing the matter in an accelerated and coordinated manner. The upcoming Cancún meeting on climate change should be different from its predecessors. It should come up with a legally binding commitment, coupled with the political will, to allocate the necessary resources for adaptation and mitigation efforts, especially for the most vulnerable and exposed countries.

On energy and development, it has always been self-evident that access to energy is key to fighting poverty. It is central to development. Yet, 1.4 billion people worldwide are without electricity, 80 per cent of whom live in rural areas. Given the urgency of this dire situation, we fully support the goal of universal energy access by 2030, as set by the United Nations.

As the prevalence of conflicts around the world clearly indicates, international cooperation is of paramount importance to complement the efforts of the United Nations in the area of peace and security. In that regard, Ethiopia, as a founding Member of the United Nations, has always been at the forefront in discharging its responsibilities in the area of peace and security. Since the early 1950s, Ethiopia has been an active participant in United Nations peacekeeping operations. At the moment, Ethiopia is among the major troop-contributing countries to United Nations peacekeeping missions.

Among the challenges that the international community faces in the area of peace and security is the scourge of terrorism. Like many other countries, we have been at the receiving end of this problem. We believe that unreserved international cooperation is the only viable way to combat terrorism. Ethiopia will continue to do its level best in that regard.

Any discussion of peace and security on the international scene today will inevitably have to take up the situation in the Horn of Africa. It is regrettable that we still cannot talk about the situation in Somalia with a great deal of optimism. On one hand, the threat of extremism continues unabated in Somalia, as does the danger posed by international terrorist networks and their sponsors to Somalia, and beyond. On the other hand, it is clear that there is little chance for making progress in Somalia until there is harmony and greater seriousness of purpose at the highest level within the Transitional Federal Institutions of Somalia.

The Council of Ministers of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), which met here in New York on 22 September preceding the mini-summit on Somalia convened by the Secretary-General on 23 September, expressed its regret with regard to differences within the leadership of the Transitional Federal Government. It called upon them to strengthen their cohesion and work together to address the multiple challenges facing the country. Furthermore, the Council of Ministers reaffirmed the Djibouti process as the sole basis for peace and reconciliation in Somalia, expressed concern about the proliferation of initiatives and urged the United Nations and other stakeholders to engage within the region and with IGAD.

With regard to the situation in the Sudan, Ethiopia is of the firm view that conceivably there is no other conflict on the continent today comparable to that of the Sudan. Hence, we believe that success in the Sudan will mean significant success for Africa as a whole. By the same token, failure may entail a serious catastrophe for Africa. That is why the African Union has given its unreserved attention to the issue, as illustrated by the effort of the High-Level Implementation Panel led by former President Thabo Mbeki. We would like to express our appreciation to the Secretary-General for holding a timely high-level meeting on the Sudan here on 24 September. The outcome of the meeting has been encouraging.

It goes without saying that the referendums in Southern Sudan and Abyei should be held on time and strictly in conformity with the terms of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. However, we believe that, irrespective of the outcome of the referendums and without in any way detracting from the historic significance of that date, the parties should not fix their minds solely on 9 January 2011. The parties ought to recognize that here are several commonalities, interests, bonds and values between the peoples of the Sudan, north and south, that transcend the decision to be taken in January 2011. That is why it is of paramount importance that negotiations on post-referendum issues should be conducted in earnest and with the seriousness of purpose that the issues deserve.

When we talk of security in the Horn of Africa region and the southern Red Sea, we cannot avoid raising our concern once again about the destructive role that the Government of Eritrea has continued to play since independence. We in the IGAD region have time and time again warned the United Nations, as well as the international community, that the Eritrean regime is the principal destabilizer in our subregion, with its utter contempt for international law and the norms of international behaviour.

It is indeed regrettable that the Security Council is not taking the necessary steps to compel Eritrea to live up to what is expected of it under Council resolution 1907 (2009). Despite the sanctions, Eritrea is still the principal architect of the complicated situation in Somalia, through its training, arming and nurturing of extremist elements such as Al-Shabaab and Hizb al-Islam, who are causing havoc in that country today.

That reprehensible conduct on the part of the regime has been by no means isolated or confined to our subregion. On the contrary, it has been standard behaviour for the Eritrean regime, extending far beyond the subregion, to other parts of the continent and sometimes even outside it.

Consistent with its innate character, the regime committed acts of aggression against practically all its neighbours in the space of only a few years after its independence. That is unprecedented for any newly independent State, giving Eritrea the dubious distinction of being an international pariah in the family of nations. Therefore, if we are to achieve a breakthrough in Somalia, the time is long overdue for the Security Council to take resolute action and see to it that its decisions are complied with.

Since its founding more than six decades ago, the United Nations, as the principal global player on the international scene with multifarious responsibilities, has, under the circumstances, lived up to the vision set for it in the Charter. There is no gainsaying the fact that if the United Nations did not exist, we would have had to create it. It is an indispensable Organization, particularly for us in the developing world. However, while underscoring its importance, we should not lose sight of the need for its reform, which is an ongoing process. That is how we can ensure the Organization's viability. Ethiopia will always be ready to give whatever support is necessary to that end.

When we talk of the United Nations as a global actor, the importance of cooperation between the United Nations and our continental organization, the African Union, need hardly be emphasized. Of particular significance is the ongoing cooperation and consultation between the United Nations Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council, in line with the provisions of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations. We should continue that cooperation, and Ethiopia will do whatever is necessary in that regard.

In conclusion, let me reiterate, as a founding Member, Ethiopia's enduring commitment to the ideals of our Organization and the fulfilment of its objectives, as set out in the Charter, which remains a living document and a source of inspiration for the international community.

**The President** (*spoke in French*). I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Héctor Lacognata, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Paraguay.

**Mr. Lacognata** (Paraguay) (*spoke in Spanish*): Mr. President, let me first convey on my own behalf and on behalf of the Republic of Paraguay our wishes for every success in your sensitive and important function at the helm of the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session. I would also like to express my delegation's recognition of Mr. Ali Abdussalam Treki, President of the Assembly at the sixty-fourth session, for the significant achievements made.

Paraguayan democracy has completed its transition, begun 21 years ago, with the transfer of

power from one political force to another in recent elections held under international observation. In that way we have consolidated a process of strengthening public freedoms, thereby affirming that those freedoms are fully guaranteed in my country today.

Paraguay comes to this general debate reaffirming its importance and calling for progress in strengthening the United Nations as the body capable of representing the interests of all Member States in the urgent quest for a fairer, more united and equitable world, guaranteed by the full force of international law.

We are very pleased that some great Powers have returned to the path of multilateralism, for some of the problems that afflict mankind can be resolved only with the involvement of every State. It has been demonstrated again that in the search for a better civilization, the solution has not, cannot and will never be found by a handful of nations. Thus the recent financial crisis can be resolved satisfactorily only through measures that are universal and taken with the agreement of the great majority. Once again, it is the General Assembly that will have to make its guiding voice heard on this issue.

We also applaud the Secretary-General's timely decision to hold the High-level Meeting for review of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The Republic of Paraguay believes that while achievements have been made with regard to the MDGs, we cannot avoid the fact that there are still inequalities all over the world and millions continue to live in abject poverty. The situation has been exacerbated by sudden increases in food prices and the consequences of climate change.

In Paraguay we are betting on the globalization of democracy with social development. We are betting on the universalization of security based on respect for human rights as an unwavering commitment and on dignifying human life. In that spirit we celebrate the recent designation of a Paraguayan citizen as a member of the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. We appreciate the support she received, which further strengthens our commitment to ensuring the inclusion of women in all areas of public life.

We would thus like to create a regional community in the context of a global union that in solidarity and together devotes its efforts to eradicating hunger and abject poverty, cooperating effectively to promote the participation of all in building sustainable prosperity through quality education and the provision of a social protection system that excludes no one.

The Republic of Paraguay reiterates its commitment to prioritize the implementation of programmes for economic development with social justice. The national Government is approaching with dedication the development and implementation of social policies to address needs in this area, with special emphasis on the most vulnerable and most needy of our population. That effort at the national level also requires international solidarity, enhanced through the processes of regional and sovereign integration of the people, as well as through a new international financial architecture whose institutions contribute to job creation and to fairer, more equitable trade conditions among the world's nations.

We note with great concern that many citizens of our countries have had to migrate to other parts of the world, particularly Europe and North America, in search of new opportunities for happiness and personal fulfilment. We take this occasion to show our solidarity with the peoples who at this moment are suffering from the consequences of mistaken discriminatory and violent immigration policies, particularly as applied by countries of the so-called first world.

Migration policy is not a domestic issue but rather a question that must respect international human rights norms and standards. Therefore we call on all countries that receive migrants to deal in a spirit of humanitarianism, fraternity and hospitality with all our fellow citizens who today seek to share in the right to work and to a life of dignity far from their respective countries. We propose a deepening of dialogue on the issue in international forums to highlight the human dimension of migration processes and find a just and equitable solution to that reality of globalization.

Full employment and decent work are universal goals, and to reach them requires focusing national efforts and improving international cooperation to address macroeconomic and trade issues involved in the solution to that problem. Bilateral and multilateral institutions for development assistance should insist on employment taking a place of prominence in their policy decisions and implementation.

Disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control are not only essential factors to ensure international peace and security, but they also guarantee sustainable

economic and social development for the most vulnerable countries. Only through a sound multilateral system with strict adherence to international law and respect for the sovereignty and self-determination of peoples can we guarantee our mutual security.

In that vein, we condemn coercive economic measures that prevent countries from exercising their sovereign right to choose their own political, economic and social systems. We reject the unilateral application of measures against the Republic of Cuba, and we reiterate our support for the General Assembly resolutions to put an end to the economic, commercial and financial blockade against that nation. The blockade against Cuba undermines the fundamental norms of international law, the principles of sovereign equality among States, non-intervention, non-interference in domestic affairs, freedom of trade and international navigation and the self-determination of peoples, as enshrined in instruments of international law.

We also demand that the Government of the United States adopt necessary measures to put an end to the irregular situation of five Cuban citizens who are currently deprived of their liberty as they sit in United States jails and who have denounced the violation of their human rights.

The Republic of Paraguay reiterates its commitment to international peace and security. In that context we reaffirm our political will to increase our contribution to peacekeeping missions and to continue our efforts to train and equip forces in accordance with the standards of this Organization, so as to progressively increase our participation in those operations.

My country is aware of the serious and complex threats of climate change around the world. We have watched with concern the growing negative effects of irregular climate phenomena that produce drastic consequences that contribute to increased poverty and displacement of persons, among other irreparable effects that must be urgently and uncompromisingly addressed. We subscribe to the Declaration of the Cochabamba summit on climate change and call for an urgent, coordinated and responsible global response to find ways to mitigate, lessen and reverse the tragic, devastating consequences of climate change. Likewise, we proclaim the sovereign rights of peoples over their natural resources, interpreted in the broadest sense.

A new international financial architecture is needed, one that seeks a system of fair trade and efficient regulation mechanisms. We also need new paradigms for integration that attack the root causes of obstacles to integration, such as inequitable exchange rates and the unequal conditions of international relations, the weight of unpayable debt and the imposition of structural changes that undermine the bases of social and political assistance. We are convinced that the United Nations, as a global institution, should play a central role to guarantee the success of our efforts to achieve better international coordination and coherence in the economic and financial spheres.

The issue of landlocked developing countries is fundamental to Paraguay's foreign policy. The asymmetries and disadvantages created by and still being created by that geographical situation can be offset only to the extent that they are internationally recognized and that there be special, individualized treatment for such countries on the part of developed economies on their integration into the globalized world.

It is essential that the United Nations implement the needed reforms with the goal of adapting its structure to the current needs of global society. With that desire for evolution, the Republic of Paraguay supports the process of reform of the Organization so as to strengthen the General Assembly and recover the functions conferred on it by the Charter, as the most representative organ of the Organization.

Paraguay has also been watching with great interest the recent rounds of intergovernmental negotiations about equitable representation on and increasing the membership of the Security Council and other related issues. We advocate full adherence to multilateralism, the sovereign equality of States and inviolable respect for the rule of law. Accordingly, we need a Security Council that is more democratic, and thus its expansion cannot be put off in order to make it more equitable and inclusive.

As a contribution from Paraguay to promoting respect and fraternity — values that strengthen any organization made up of individuals and nations — we have proposed to share with the world our tradition of celebrating friendship. To that end, Paraguay has presented to the United Nations a proposal to proclaim

30 July as World Friendship Day, in order to renew appreciation and recognition among our peoples.

Sixty-five years ago we said, "We the peoples of the United Nations", and Paraguay was among them. Hence we reaffirm each and every precept enshrined in the remarkable Preamble to our Charter. We will be at the side of all, because we believe in the equality of nations large and small, which will allow us progressively to improve the conditions under which justice can be maintained and thereby better the standards of life in larger freedom. That is our mandate. We are committed to fulfil it.

**The President** (*spoke in French*): I now call on His Excellency Mr. Kasit Piromya, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand.

**Mr. Piromya** (Thailand): Please allow me, Sir, to extend to you, on behalf of the delegation of the Kingdom of Thailand, our wholehearted congratulations on your election to the presidency of the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session. You can rest assured of my delegation's full support and cooperation.

We live in a world of divides. Although the predominantly ideological divide of the Cold War has ended, new divides have come to the fore — politico-security, socio-economic, digital or even based on beliefs. Such divides present challenges to peace, security, prosperity and human dignity. Overcoming them requires that nations work together as one; overcoming them requires a United Nations.

But the effectiveness of such international cooperation depends upon the strength and willingness of individual nations themselves. Thailand is such a nation, willing and ready to cooperate with international partners to help bridge such divides and help the world cross into a better future.

Of course, we are under no illusions about Thailand's own difficulties and our own current divides. But history has shown that Thailand is a resilient country, and its people are capable of overcoming whatever challenges are thrown before them. Thailand remains a functioning democracy, but we are a relatively young one. Like many other democracies, ours will develop and mature with time. The Thai Government is committed to that and to the principles of democracy, the practice of good governance and respect for human rights.

Have no doubt that our Government is resolutely working to heal the political and social divisions in my country. We are working to address any legitimate socio-economic grievances, with a view to bringing back national unity and confidence. We have launched a national reconciliation plan and set up independent committees, led by eminent persons with the utmost integrity, to propose ways to reform the country and its democratic institutions. We will bridge our country's divide.

Human rights remain the cornerstone of the Government's policy. We are looking into any wrongdoings in the past and will ensure that they do not recur and that justice is done. To that end, we have set up an independent fact-finding commission to look into the tragic events earlier this year. Other independent organs, such as our human rights commission, also play a key and active role in safeguarding human rights.

The Thai Government well recognizes that some political grievances mainly arise from the economic disparities in our society. That is a serious issue, and the Government is working to bridge economic and social gaps. We are creating social safety nets through our universal health-care schemes and by providing 15 years of free education, training programmes for the unemployed and support for low-income earners, farmers, the elderly and people with disabilities. Our stimulus packages will benefit not only the overall economy but especially those who are economically and socially disadvantaged and disenfranchised.

Despite our troubles, the Thai economy remains robust, as it and our exports continue to grow steadily. However, we are not complacent, as much remains to be done. We need to better spread economic and social well-being and vitality throughout Thailand, which will also contribute to the reconciliation, trust and stability of the country. To that end, we seek to strengthen Thailand's creative economy by utilizing our rich cultural and historical heritage and the creativity of both urban and rural Thais to add more value to Thai products and services, so that our productivity and competitiveness are enhanced and our wealth more widely spread.

I think we have proven to the world the strength of our national character and the resilience of our nation. Despite the tragic incidents, Thailand has continued to move forward, not merely for the benefit

of the country but also for that of the international community. It is evident that we remain an active and responsible Member of the United Nations, ready to enhance our present partnerships and build new ones to help create a better future for the world.

I will now expand upon how Thailand has contributed, and can further contribute, internationally to help bridge the world's divides.

Many a conflict, whether inter- or intra-State, stems from development disparities and the suffering caused by economic injustice. The world is divided, not simply into have and have-not countries but, rather, into have-more and have-less ones, and into North and South. Thailand therefore believes that in bridging the development gap, global economic growth should be balanced and inclusive, regional economic cooperation and integration should be enhanced and the disadvantaged and dispossessed should not be left behind.

The recent global financial crisis served as a valuable wake-up call for all, reminding us to live within our means. Thailand believes that people-centred development, moderation in economic behaviour and the optimal use of limited resources — as stipulated in His Majesty the King of Thailand's "sufficiency economy" philosophy — are essential if we are to have sustainable economic development and growth. Thailand has embarked upon that path, and we urge others to follow.

The financial crisis has also alerted us to the necessity of better global governance and the need for reform of international financial institutions, with due consideration for the interests of developing nations, as they are the ones affected the most. Countries must work more closely together to better coordinate fiscal and monetary policies and to improve the regulation of financial institutions.

On our part, Thailand has engaged actively in regional and international forums such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the ASEAN+3 process, the Group of 20 (G-20) and the United Nations. As ASEAN Chair, Thailand was invited to the G-20 Summits in London and Pittsburgh last year to share ASEAN's experiences and lessons learned from the 1997 financial crisis.

Thailand believes that regional initiatives like the Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralization, the Asian Bond Markets Initiative and the ASEAN Economic Community would all help to complement ongoing global cooperation to achieve balanced and sustainable growth, as well as to promote a resilient international financial system that also addresses the concerns of developing countries. We believe that ASEAN, through the ASEAN Chair, will continue to contribute to the forum its relevant experiences in achieving those goals.

As a developing country itself, Thailand stands ready to help others in need. We believe in greater South-South cooperation, for it is fellow developing countries that best understand what is required to help push development forward. We are also active in building partnerships between the developed and developing world, providing a bridge between them through triangular cooperation by adapting technology from developed countries to match the needs of developing ones. We have achieved most of the Millennium Development Goals, and we stand ready to share our knowledge and experience, especially in alleviating poverty and improving well-being in other countries.

We have already done so in our region by cooperating with our neighbours to improve social welfare and build essential infrastructure. Through the Thailand-initiated Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity, the initiative for an ASEAN Integration Strategic Framework, the East-West Economic Corridor, the Greater Mekong subregion projects and bilateral cooperation, we have striven to promote greater technical cooperation in the region and to create and upgrade transport and telecommunication networks to facilitate greater economic activity. Such initiatives ultimately help narrow the developmental divide within the region.

Of the problems of development, food security ranks as one of the most important. For people to live, mouths must be fed. As a major food exporter, Thailand can contribute to ensuring greater food security. We also believe in greater regional cooperation. The ASEAN Plus Three emergency rice reserve stands as a model for other regions to emulate.

Climate change is undeniable. It is happening now. We are all experiencing its effects, which have exacerbated the world's woes, including food scarcity and natural disasters. Thailand is a developing country actively pursuing voluntary climate-change mitigation efforts. We plan to increase our forest area through

reforestation and afforestation, as well as our renewable energy usage. Indeed, our eleventh national social and economic development plan, for the years 2012 to 2016, now being drafted, aims to move Thailand towards becoming a low-carbon society.

We are also aiming for green economic growth, with energy used more efficiently and wisely. But the developed world must also play its part in helping others become better equipped to fight climate change. Greater technology transfer is thus a must. We sincerely hope that the sixteenth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be held in Cancún, will lead to more concrete and comprehensive results in our fight against climate change.

Development is linked to human security, which is linked to human rights. People must have freedom from want as well as from fear. But while fundamental human rights are universal, how they are guaranteed and promoted differs from country to country in accordance with different belief systems and cultures. Thailand believes that we should bridge such differences by working together towards a more common understanding of human rights and how they must be protected. To this end, forums such as the interfaith dialogues and the Alliance of Civilizations are invaluable contributions to greater common understanding.

I stress again that human rights are a core principle of the Government of Thailand and its foreign policy. Thailand's election to the Human Rights Council for the years 2010 to 2013, and its election by acclamation to the presidency of the Council in June, is clear testament to the faith of the international community in Thailand's active and positive role in promoting and protecting human rights. As a member of the Human Rights Council, Thailand aims to reinvigorate the Council to address more effectively human rights problems worldwide. To this end, as President of the Council, we hope to see the review process through to completion by next year. We believe the Council should adopt a more even-handed approach through greater cooperation and engagement with the concerned countries themselves, to establish greater dialogue between States as well as regions and to try to forge consensus among them.

Instead of offering mere criticism and the imposition of values seen as foreign, we must reach out to persuade the countries concerned to understand that human rights are shared values and common to all. Only through true engagement can the Council have a real impact on the betterment of people's lives and ultimately help pave the way towards peace. Only then can we ensure that the rights of man do not again fall hostage to the wrongs of humankind.

Thailand has striven for this regionally as well. Under Thailand's chairmanship of ASEAN from July 2008 to the end of 2009, the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights was created to protect and promote human rights and to uphold human dignity. We have also contributed to setting international human rights norms in the area of improving the lives of female inmates, through Her Royal Highness Princess Bajrakitiyabha Mahidol's, the draft United Nations rules for the treatment of women prisoners and non-custodial measures for women offenders, which have been submitted for the Assembly's consideration (see A/C.3/65/L.5).

Thailand has also rendered humanitarian assistance to preserve human well-being and dignity injured by natural disasters, not only in nearby places such as Myanmar, China and Pakistan, but also as far afield as Haiti and, most recently, Chad. We remain ready to offer our facilities as a staging centre for humanitarian assistance in our region.

The flames of war can be sparked for many reasons, but none are as combustible as the security divides and power imbalances, real or perceived, that exist between nations as well as within them. Thailand believes that global disarmament and non-proliferation are essential in order to level the security playing field, to dispel that sense of an imbalance of power and security. The United Nations must continue its active role to that end, but major Powers and regional entities must also do their fair share: the Southeast Asian Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty is a good case in point.

Thailand supports international efforts towards the disarmament and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. We have consistently abided by the relevant Security Council resolutions and are gravely concerned about the threat of the spread of such weapons to terrorists. That is why Thailand has recently joined the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism.

The maintenance of international peace and security is a serious and costly endeavour, and history has shown that the international community has often acted too late, enforcing and keeping the peace rather than making it. We believe that more should be invested in peacemaking and preventive diplomacy, which are much less expensive than peace enforcement and peacekeeping. It is much better to hold talks than to wage war. It is also far less likely for a community of nations to wage war within itself. That is why ASEAN is steadfastly becoming a community: economically, socially, culturally and politically.

But in cases where peacekeeping has been and is necessary, Thailand has also done its part. In the past two decades, we have contributed nearly 20,000 troops, police officers and civilian staff to United Nations peacekeeping operations worldwide: from Cambodia and Timor-Leste to Haiti and very soon Darfur in the Sudan. Thailand has also recently sent a counter-piracy task force to assist international efforts in patrolling and protecting ships from pirate attacks in the Gulf of Aden area. These are our contributions to the maintenance of peace and security worldwide, and we are prepared to do more. Rest assured that as long as there is peace to be kept, the Thais will be ready to help keep it.

However, peacekeeping alone is not enough. The conditions for sustainable peace must be built in post-conflict societies to ensure that blood is not shed again. We believe that sustainable development is crucial to perpetual peace. This is what Thailand is working for, by helping lay the foundations for peace through development during the peacekeeping phase — from the transfer of agricultural know-how in Timor-Leste to the building of essential infrastructure in Burundi. We have also striven for this goal through our membership of the Peacebuilding Commission. Thailand envisages that body playing a greater role in ensuring sustainable peace worldwide.

Thailand itself is poised to play a greater role in ensuring international peace and security. We have presented our candidature for a non-permanent seat on the Security Council for the term 2017-2018, for which we ask members' invaluable support. Thailand aspires to work closely with our international partners to ensure that the path towards war is never trodden again, but is rerouted towards peace.

While we believe that the Security Council has so far played an indispensable role in maintaining international peace and security, we also believe that the Council should be adjusted to better reflect world realities in order to tackle today's global challenges more effectively. Thailand envisions a Security Council working with greater efficiency, transparency and engagement with concerned parties, be they countries, regional organizations or other United Nations bodies. We believe that, through such reforms, the Council would become more effective in maintaining peace and security worldwide.

Thailand is wholly committed to the United Nations and its lofty ideals. Since the birth of the Organization over six decades ago, Thailand has worked closely with the United Nations to advance peace and security, development and human rights around the world. And we will continue to do so. In spite of our problems, our commitment and determination have never wavered.

As a medium-sized and middle-income developing country, Thailand is ready to engage with — and serve as a connection between — North and South, East and West. As a country with substantial experience in addressing today's problems, we are ready to help narrow the international gaps in development, human rights and security. Thailand believes that the time to act is now, and we stand ready with our partners to act as a bridge between worlds and to help bridge the world's divides.

**The President** (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to His Excellency Archbishop Dominique Mamberti, Secretary for Relations with States of the Observer State of the Holy See.

**Archbishop Mamberti** (Holy See) (*spoke in French*): On behalf of the Holy See, I am pleased to warmly congratulate you, Mr. President, on your election as President of the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session, and to offer our best wishes for the successful fulfilment of your mandate. In this new period of work for the General Assembly, the Holy See wishes to offer its genuine collaboration in tackling the numerous challenges faced by the international community. The 65 years of existence of the United Nations are a unique event in history in and of themselves, particularly when contrasted with the annihilation of hopes placed in the peace conferences

of the beginning of the twentieth century, and later in the League of Nations.

The existence of the United Nations shows that humankind has found in the Organization a response to the terrifying tragedies of the two World Wars. Despite the imperfection of its structures and its way of functioning, the United Nations has sought to bring solutions to international problems in the economic, social, cultural and humanitarian fields, and has tried to fulfil the mandate given to it by its Charter, namely to be a centre for the coordination of the action of States with a view to the maintenance of peace and friendly relations among peoples.

The dialogue among the representatives of States that is renewed every year in the plenary of the General Assembly, which remains open and lively in the other bodies and agencies of the United Nations family, has been the basic tool for fulfilling this mandate. There have been times when this dialogue has been, more than anything else, a clash of opposing and irreconcilable ideologies and positions. However, the United Nations has become irreplaceable in the life of the people of the world in the search for a better future for all the inhabitants of the planet.

It is from the perspective of this productive international dialogue carried out through the discussions and deliberations that take place in this Hall that I would like to recall important developments related to international peace and security that took place during the sixty-fourth session of the Assembly.

First of all, the Holy See welcomes the entry into force on 1 August of the Convention on Cluster Munitions. This instrument, which the Holy See was among the first States to ratify, does represent an important result for multilateralism, based on constructive cooperation among Governments and civil society, as well as the connection between humanitarian law and human rights.

Another important result was the positive conclusion last May of the eighth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons with the publication of a consensus-based document that provides for different actions related to the three main pillars of the treaty: nuclear disarmament, the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Among these, an important sign of hope was a decision to convene, before 2012, a conference to establish a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction.

Furthermore, also in the area of peace and disarmament, the first meeting, last July, in New York, of the Preparatory Committee for a Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty, which is set for 2012 is also worth mentioning. This meeting showed that the process, which has begun for the treaty, is shared by all States that are aware of the need to legally settle the issue of the arms trade for reasons of peace, humanitarian protection and social and economic development.

In the context and spirit of successful international dialogue, we should also welcome the signing of the New START treaty between the United States and the Russian Federation. That signing is a step forward in relations among the nuclear Powers, and the Holy See hopes that it will open new prospects and lead to substantial arms reductions in the future. Similarly, during this session of the General Assembly, a High-level Meeting was held, some days ago, on revitalizing disarmament negotiations, which was very useful for discussing ways to give new life to the Conference on Disarmament and to continue to build a consensus on the major obstacles to agreement on disarmament, in particular, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and the Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty. We must do everything possible to achieve a world free from nuclear weapons, and the Holy See supports all efforts along these lines.

During the previous session of the General Assembly, the United Nations made an unprecedented contribution to international cooperation and peace in Haiti, where, during the earthquake of 12 January 2010, the head of the United Nations Mission, Ambassador Hédi Annabi, died, as did his assistant, Mr. Luiz Carlos da Costa, along with 82 other civil servants and members of the peacekeeping forces. On behalf of the Holy See, I would like to extend our sincere condolences to the Secretary-General and the national authorities of the States of the persons who died, as well as their families and colleagues. Their sacrifice should serve as an impetus for a new global commitment to maintaining peace.

The Holy See has always recognized and appreciated actions carried out by United Nations peacekeeping forces. The important increase in requests for intervention in recent years shows the increased confidence in United Nations activities in

cooperation with regional organizations, but it also highlights the importance of the growing role played by the United Nations and regional organizations in preventive diplomacy.

Likewise, the action of the Peacebuilding Commission remains fundamental to rebuilding the social, legal and economic fabric that was destroyed by war and to avoiding the relapse into conflict. Initiatives to prevent conflicts, to peacefully resolve conflicts, to separate warring parties and to promote reconstruction deserve generous political and economic support from all States Members of the United Nations. Support from all would be an eloquent show of confidence in a destiny based on solidarity for humankind.

If we think that normative developments with regard to disarmament and the non-proliferation of weapons have shown signs of progress, there are reasons for concern with respect to the many obstacles to global security and peace. Above all, military spending in the world continues to be excessive and even to increase. The problem of the exercise of the legitimate right of States to the peaceful development of nuclear energy in accordance with effective international monitoring of non-proliferation remains relevant. The Holy See encourages all parties involved in settling various ongoing controversies, in particular those with respect to the Korean peninsula and the Persian Gulf region, as well as adjoining regions, to carry out an honest in-depth dialogue that would be able to harmoniously reconcile all rights of the nations concerned.

The recent terrible natural catastrophes in Pakistan add to the difficulties caused by conflicts that have beset that region. In addition to the humanitarian response, which must be generous, and other associated measures, there must also be a broader effort at mutual and deeper understanding of the causes of the hostilities.

Moreover, genuine dialogue, trust and generosity in putting aside peripheral or short-term interests are the way to achieve a lasting solution to the conflict between the State of Israel and the Palestinians. Dialogue and understanding among the various parties involved is also the only way to achieve reconciliation in Iraq and Myanmar, for example, as well as to resolve ethnic and cultural problems in Central Asia and the regions of the Caucasus and to calm recurring tensions in Africa, such as in the Sudan, just before decisive elections.

There is a significant economic component to most of those conflicts. Substantially improving the living conditions of the Palestinian people and other peoples living under civil or regional wars will no doubt make a crucial contribution to transforming violent opposition into patient and peaceful dialogue.

The High-level Plenary Meeting on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) took place here several days ago. All Member States once again solemnly committed themselves to make every necessary effort to achieve the MDGs by 2015. The Holy See welcomes the reiterated will to uproot poverty, which it hopes will resolutely be brought to an end. However, it is important to underscore that we will not achieve the Goals without fulfilling two great moral imperatives.

On the one hand, it is essential that rich and emerging countries fully honour their development assistance commitments and immediately establish and operationalize a financial and trading framework that on the whole favours the weakest countries. On the other hand, rich and poor alike should ensure an ethical political and economic change that guarantees good governance and eradicates all forms of corruption. Otherwise, we risk reaching the year 2015 not having achieved sufficient results, except — and this would be sad and paradoxical — in the areas of population control and promoting minority lifestyles, as introduced in certain paragraphs of the recently held summit. In that case, the Millennium Goals would become a veritable fraud vis-à-vis the comprehensive human development of peoples.

With regard to the environment, which is the subject of Millennium Goal 7, the participation of more than 115 heads of State and Government at the Conference of the States Parties to the Framework Convention on Climate Change held in Copenhagen in December 2009 demonstrated the attention and importance attached to an issue as complex as the climate on the international agenda. The Holy See hopes that the next session of the Conference of the States Parties will take a political decision that will make the negotiations on a legally binding agreement more concrete.

At the heart of that debate is the establishment of a development model based on a new energy system.

Nevertheless, it is important to recall the ethical issues associated with this matter. It is not just about achieving a world less dependent on fossil fuels and more devoted to energy efficiency and alternative fuels, but about changing unbridled and irresponsible consumption behaviour. As my delegation has often observed with regard to the Millennium Goals, it is that behaviour, and not population growth and improving living conditions in less developed countries, that places a growing and unsustainable burden on resources and on the environment.

The positive results achieved by the international community in the course of the Assembly's previous session would not have been possible without dialogue among Governments, which are being joined with growing determination and effectiveness by civil society interlocutors. However, to be honest and effective, that dialogue must be genuinely dia-logos — an exchange of wisdom and wisdom shared. The dialogue must move quickly from an exchange of words and a search for balance among opposing interests towards a genuine sharing of wisdom for the common good.

It is precisely for that reason that Article 1 of the Charter links the promotion of human rights with the defence of peace, settlement of disputes and resolving international problems of an economic nature. Nations are not separate entities, independent of the peoples who comprise them. The fundamental national interest of all Governments should be the establishment and maintenance of the necessary conditions for the full development of the material and spiritual good of every inhabitant of their countries. The promotion of and respect for human rights are therefore the ultimate goal of dialogue and international affairs, as well as the indispensable conditions for genuine and fruitful dialogue among countries.

The Holy See is also attentively following the work of the Assembly's Third Committee and of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. This statement in the general debate is also an opportunity for me to express our support for the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees and all specialized agencies and bodies working in the broad field of human and humanitarian rights. In that regard, the Holy See also believes that, although slow, the progress made in the discussions on the principle of the responsibility to protect is cause for hope. Nevertheless, resolute and effective attention is still lacking with regard to the problems of refugees, people who have been forcibly expelled and large-scale displacements.

The history of the development of human rights itself illustrates that respect for religious freedom is the cornerstone of the entire human rights architecture. When that freedom is lacking, absent too will be the recognition of the transcendent nature of every human person, which entails a dignity that existed before, and is superior to, the political and normative awareness and that creates an irrepressible framework of freedom and responsibility. If religious freedom falters, all human rights are at risk of becoming something that government grants — or, at best, the result of a balance of social forces, which are variable by nature, because they will have no foundation other than balance or agreement itself.

Beyond criticism of the organizational limitations and lack of effectiveness of the United Nations, we see that there is a universally shared awareness of the need for the Organization, as well as a universal feeling of gratitude for its efforts. All of us understand that, by virtue of its numerous bodies, the Organization constitutes an essential forum for dialogue and understanding between nations. The best way of guaranteeing that the United Nations continues to carry out its historic mission of coordinating and keeping all States united around the common goals of peace, security and comprehensive human development for all will be to continuously focus on the dignity of all men and women and effectively respect it, beginning with the right to life — even of the weakest, such as unborn children and the terminally ill — and religious freedom.

**The President** (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Bakary Fofana, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, African Integration and la Francophonie of the Republic of Guinea

**Mr. Fofana** (Guinea) (*spoke in French*): I have the honour to speak before the General Assembly to convey the warm greetings of the people and Government of Guinea, and most especially that of His Excellency General Sékouba Konaté, interim President of the Republic, President of the Transition. On this happy occasion, I would first of all like to congratulate you, Sir, on your election to the presidency of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly. I wish you every success and assure you in advance of my

delegation's support. Your undeniable personal qualities, in conjunction with proven ability, will certainly inspire our work at a time when our Organization faces numerous challenges involving the entire international community. I would also like to extend our gratitude to your predecessor, Mr. Abdussalam Treki, for the skill and dedication that he showed in carrying out his mandate.

Here, we would like to express our gratitude to our Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, for his tireless efforts to promote the noble ideals of the United Nations and, in particular, for his personal involvement in settling the crisis in my country.

On assuming power on 23 December 2008 against a background of political and economic crisis, the new Guinean authorities had to deal with many difficulties, in particular poor governance, State crimes, widespread insecurity and the proliferation and circulation of small arms and light weapons. That worrying situation led to the adoption of various measures to restore order and security, build national unity and establish a regime respectful of human rights and individual and public freedoms.

In that specific context, the agreement signed in Ouagadougou on 15 January 2010 enabled the people of Guinea, of all inclinations, to embark on a path of peace and dialogue and implement a political plan ensuring the return to constitutional order based on the rule of law and good governance. Despite pitfalls, that process of democratization led to the establishment of transitional bodies, specifically, a Government of national unity, led by a Prime Minister, a head of Government coming from the Forces vives, the National Transitional Council and the Independent National Electoral Commission, as well as a timetable setting the deadline for organizing free and transparent elections.

In a show of great commitment, following the adoption of the new Constitution, the people turned out in force on 27 June 2010 for the most free and democratic presidential election that the country had known since its independence in 1958. The second round of that important election is planned for the coming weeks.

Here, from this rostrum, I would like to launch an urgent appeal to the African and international communities to continue to support Guinea with a view to strengthening peace, stability and security in the subregion. I would also like to pay warm tribute to the Facilitator, His Excellency Mr. Blaise Compaore, President of Burkina Faso, for his tireless efforts to promote the democratic process in Guinea. I also extend that tribute to the International Contact Group on Guinea and, through it, the member States of the Economic Community of West African States and of the African Union, the international community and all friendly countries that are working with us at this critical time.

Peace and security continue to be threatened in some parts of the African continent and the world. Somalia continues to be subject to a fratricidal and painful war. In the Sudan, peace remains fragile despite the huge sacrifices and the investments granted. We urge the African Union and the international community to continue their efforts for a prompt and lasting settlement of those conflicts.

In Côte d'Ivoire, the recent political developments have made it possible for that friendly neighbouring country to move towards the presidential election planned for 31 October. That important step forward, in conjunction with the positive outcomes of the peacebuilding process in Sierra Leone and Liberia, give us real cause for encouragement and hope for the peoples of the Mano River Union.

With regard to Western Sahara, my Government supports the efforts of the United Nations and remains firmly committed to the Moroccan initiative on the negotiation of a status of autonomy for the Sahara region. It urges the stakeholders to find a lasting and mutually beneficial political solution.

The upsurge in threats and terrorist violence in Africa are a source of serious concern to Guinea. My country supports the prompt establishment of a consultative framework for action to eradicate that scourge.

In the Middle East, my delegation welcomes the direct talks between the Palestinian authorities and the Israeli Government under the auspices of the United States of America. It hopes that those talks will lead to the establishment of an independent and sovereign Palestinian State, living side by side in peace with Israel. The Guinean Government believes that peace in that region can be achieved only in a climate of mutual trust and with a will to implement the agreements and relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council. From that viewpoint, Israel must

withdraw from the occupied Palestinian territories and end its settlement policy.

Only a week ago, in this Hall, the international community reiterated its commitment to the billions of people who are expecting it to make a reality of the promise of a better world expressed in the Millennium Declaration (resolution 55/2). Guinea welcomes the holding of that summit, which allowed our heads of State and Government and our partners to reaffirm their will to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) within the agreed time frame.

My country remains convinced that achieving the Millennium Development Goals is within reach. That is borne out by the remarkable progress made in many areas by countries that are among the poorest on the planet. Barely five years from the 2015 deadline, we must step up the pace, particularly in the countries facing major challenges, in order to consolidate the achievements and make even more effective progress than we have to date.

In order to take up the many challenges of the twenty-first century, development partners and the international community have no choice but to step up efforts to work together to lend new impetus to international cooperation. My country urges all stakeholders to assume, at the national, regional and international levels, their share of responsibility in achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

The Republic of Guinea welcomes the progress made in recent years with regard to official development assistance. However, it regrets that long-standing commitments and those entered into more recently are far from being met. It is vital to reflect on all standard and supplementary sources of financing for development. Innovative financing is becoming an increasingly important means to mobilize additional, predictable and stable resources to supplement official development assistance.

Guinea, which attaches great importance to an increase in official development assistance, reiterates its proposal on organizing an African conference on innovative financing and drawing up a draft African declaration on transparency of financial governance and fighting illegal capital flows. The purpose of that conference would be to promote strategies to mobilize innovative financing as a complement to traditional aid and the domestic resources needed to fund the MDGs. The draft African declaration on transparency of financial governance and fighting illegal capital flows would seek to stem the immense capital outflows from Africa by redirecting them towards development of the continent.

Those proposals were warmly welcomed by various African bodies and the Leading Group on Innovative Financing for Development. They also received support at the twenty-fifth summit of heads of State and Government of Africa and France and the backing of the African Union at its fifteenth summit in Kampala. My delegation hopes that those initiatives will feature among the proposals for action on Africa during this sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly.

Regarding international trade, we hope for a prompt conclusion of the Doha Round negotiations on the basis of an agreement that is both far-reaching and fair to all stakeholders, in particular the least developed countries. We again call for developed countries to respect their commitment to remove by 2013 all export subsidies that significantly distort trade and agricultural production in developing countries. My country welcomes the substantial progress made with respect to debt relief and urges the international community to continue its endeavours to effectively implement the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative.

The subject of climate change quite rightly occupies a central place on the international agenda, given that phenomenon's devastating effects. That reveals the emergence of a collective awareness and the real threat that that phenomenon poses to humankind.

Given that urgency, my country calls for concerted and courageous international efforts to alleviate the suffering of victims, particularly the vulnerable populations of poor countries. The commitments undertaken with regard to developing countries in terms of financial resources, technology transfer and capacity-building must be fulfilled, so that the appropriate measures can be undertaken to adapt to climate change and to mitigate its effects in those countries. In that connection, my delegation hopes that the climate conference to be held at the end of the year in Cancún, Mexico, will lead to an ambitious agreement that will commit States to concrete action.

As it is fully aware of the pressing need to act, the Guinean Government, for its part, is determined to assume its share of the responsibility, especially since

Guinea plays a leading role in implementing all policies and strategies aimed at achieving sustainable development and restoring ecological balance in western African. As the source of over 20 rivers that irrigate the West African region, including the Niger, Senegal, Gambia and Makona Rivers, Guinea is a veritable water tower for Western Africa and the crucible for an incredibly rich biodiversity.

The main theme of this session, "Reaffirming the central role of the United Nations in global governance", is extremely timely. We acknowledge that most gratefully. In a highly interdependent world that is marked by the combined effects of many crises, a new culture of international solidarity is essential.

Likewise, a profound reform of our Organization is needed to make it more democratic, more representative and transparent. Sixty-five years after its creation, the United Nations does indeed need to be reformed in order to become more effective and better placed to meet the aspirations of our peoples. Let us make it an effective instrument in the service of peace, security, development and human rights. Only in that way will current and future generations in all countries and all regions of the world see their hopes of living in peace realized in a world that is free and prosperous, without fear, poverty or need.

**The President** (*spoke in French*): I now call on His Excellency Daw Penjo, Foreign Secretary of the Kingdom of Bhutan.

**Mr. Penjo** (Bhutan): I would like to congratulate you, Mr. President, on your election to the presidency of the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session. We are confident that with your vast academic and political experience, you will provide the Assembly with the necessary leadership in the year ahead. Allow me to also commend your predecessor, His Excellency Mr. Ali Treki, for his many initiatives and guidance in steering the sixty-fourth session to a successful conclusion.

My delegation welcomes your proposal on "Reaffirming the central role of the United Nations in global governance" as the theme for the general debate of this session. That theme is most appropriate, as it comes at a time when the world looks to the United Nations for its stewardship in addressing the multiple global crises, the devastating effects of climate change and the issue of the maintenance of global peace and security. The United Nations has long been recognized as an indispensable global Organization due to its mandate, and must continuously adapt itself to deal with the challenges confronting the world so that its pivotal role in global governance is maintained. No other multilateral organization or intergovernmental grouping, without the legitimacy of universal membership, can hope to replace the centrality of the United Nations in global affairs.

The vast majority of Members of the United Nations are small States. The principle of sovereign equality enshrined in the United Nations Charter establishes that all States, regardless of size, wealth, relative power, population or level of development, are accorded equal opportunity to participate and contribute to the work of the United Nations, its principal organs and its high-level posts. That, in fact, is the bedrock upon which this House was founded 64 years ago. It is a principle that must remain in the forefront and help chart our course further as our dialogue on United Nations reform continues.

How can we, as Members of the United Nations, credibly espouse equity among nations and peoples if we fail to practise it among ourselves? After 39 years of membership, Bhutan continues to believe that the United Nations still has room and a role for smaller States, as equal partners in global affairs, including in the maintenance of international peace and security. For that reason, Bhutan is seeking membership in the Security Council in a non-permanent seat for the term 2013 and 2014.

Last week at the High-level Plenary Meeting, our heads of State and Government acknowledged the plight of millions of people living in poverty and agreed to recommit themselves to keeping their pledge on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The successful achievement of the MDGs by all Member States will serve as a measure of the effectiveness of the United Nations. The United Nations must therefore continue to provide the necessary leadership to foster renewed global partnership to enable the realization of all the MDGs by 2015.

On 20 September, Bhutan's Prime Minister highlighted to this gathering the need to move beyond conventional development practices (see A/65/PV.3). He therefore proposed the inclusion of happiness as the ninth Millennium Development Goal. My delegation is hopeful that that proposal of my Prime Minister will receive the support of the United Nations membership.

My delegation is pleased to note that the reform agenda initiated following the World Summit in 2005 is beginning to yield results. In that regard, we welcome the Assembly's unanimous adoption of the resolution on system-wide coherence (resolution 64/289) early in July 2010, which, inter alia, established UN Women. The creation of UN Women effectively consolidates all the existing mandates and functions relating to women and constitutes an important step in fulfilling the commitments undertaken in the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing. We are confident that that entity will address the global issues of gender equality and women's empowerment with great vigour.

Bhutan has long been convinced that no society can be a happy one if it is not inclusive. Promoting the conditions that will enable the pursuit of national happiness by all our citizens, so that, regardless of race, sex, language, religion, politics or other status, they may enjoy a good quality of life in a progressive and prosperous country is not only one of the objectives of government, it is our moral obligation. This spirit is further reaffirmed by our Constitution, which guarantees the fundamental rights of all Bhutanese, thus demonstrating that Bhutan is committed to building an inclusive society, one that enables all Bhutanese, including those with disabilities, to lead fulfilling lives, to contribute and to participate as full members of society. My Government was therefore particularly pleased to sign the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on 21 September 2010.

We are also pleased to note that resolution 64/289 on system-wide coherence will contribute to the enhancement of the operational activities of the United Nations, making the funding system more systematic and harmonizing the overall governance structure. This would improve the capacity of the United Nations to more effectively deliver assistance to countries, thus strengthening its development pillar.

My delegation recognizes the important role of the General Assembly in setting the global agenda and dealing with many of the important issues confronting the international community today. With each passing year, the responsibilities entrusted to the General Assembly, as the chief deliberative and policy-making body of the United Nations, continue to grow, and we believe that the authority of the General Assembly must be simultaneously enhanced to assume the growing mandate entrusted to it. We therefore appreciate the progress made by the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the General Assembly, where a number of key issues have been highlighted, especially the strengthening of the Office of the President of the General Assembly. We are confident that, with the political determination of Member States, those deliberations will result in a stronger United Nations.

We are encouraged that, in the past year, the five rounds of intergovernmental negotiations on the question of equitable representation in and larger membership of the Security Council and other matters related to the Council, held under the chairmanship of Ambassador Zahir Tanin of Afghanistan, is making good progress. My delegation supports the expansion of both the permanent and the non-permanent membership of the Security Council to reflect the contemporary realities and make it a more representative body. We believe that India, Japan, Germany and Brazil plus two countries from the African continent, which have the capacity and resources to shoulder the onerous responsibilities with regard to the maintenance of international peace and security, should be granted permanent membership.

Given the renewed commitment of the international community to the MDGs with a view to improving the lives of the people in the poorest countries, it is most timely that the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries should take place in 2011 in Turkey. We thank the Government of Turkey for its generous offer and assistance in hosting this important Conference. We also appreciate the efforts of the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States in coordinating preparations for the Conference.

As we undertake preparations for this event, we will look to you, Mr. President, for your support and direction, so that the least developed countries (LDCs) together with all our development partners cannot only ensure a successful outcome, but also, more importantly, give their people a chance for a better life. We are confident that the Conference will build on the successes of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010 and adopt new measures and strategies for the development of the LDCs in the next decade.

As most fittingly described, the other defining challenge of our time, namely, climate change, requires the collective and coordinated effort of all nations, as its devastating effects know no bounds. My country has full faith in the leadership of the United Nations and believes in the centrality of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in addressing climate change. We are confident that the ongoing negotiations will lead to a concrete, comprehensive and equitable agreement at the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Cancún later this year, as envisaged under the Bali Action Plan. Success will be essential in Cancún for small and vulnerable countries such as my own, which bears a heavier burden as the result of climate change. We must have the necessary resources for mitigation and adaptation.

With the severe threats and damaging effects caused by climate change in South Asia, as recently occurred in Pakistan, it was no coincidence that the sixteenth Summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), which Bhutan was honoured to host in April this year, appropriately chose climate change as its theme. In addition to adopting the Thimphu Silver Jubilee Declaration, entitled "Towards a Green and Happy South Asia", the Summit also adopted the Thimphu Statement on Climate Change. The Statement outlines important initiatives to further strengthen and intensify regional cooperation to address the adverse impacts of climate change in South Asia. One of the important outcomes of the Thimphu Summit is the formulation of a common SAARC statement on climate change, which Bhutan, as the current SAARC Chair, will present at the forthcoming Conference of the Parties in December in Cancún.

We are pleased to report that, as Bhutan progresses into its third year as a democratic constitutional monarchy, the foundations for a sustainable and vibrant democracy are growing stronger. The institutional arrangements for the three branches of Government, as required under our Constitution, are now complete and functioning with the establishment of the Supreme Court earlier this year. Likewise, all the constitutional bodies with oversight functions have been firmly established, and the media is performing its role as the fourth estate in an atmosphere of freedom.

There is no doubt that, given the challenges confronting our increasingly interdependent world, the role of the United Nations is vital in addressing those issues. In order to do so, the United Nations requires the full support and commitment of the entire membership. Only then will it be able to truly reaffirm its central role in global governance. I therefore conclude by assuring you, Mr. President, of my delegation's full support and cooperation, as you embark on a year-long journey of further strengthening this Organization.

**The President** (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Pak Kil Yon, Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

**Mr. Pak Kil Yon** (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) (*spoke in Korean: interpretation provided by the delegation*): Mr. President, on behalf of the delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, I would like, first of all, to congratulate you on your election to the presidency of the United Nations General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session. In the same vein, I believe that your able leadership will bring success to this session.

This year marks the sixty-fifth anniversary of the founding of the United Nations. The founding of the United Nations laid down an international legal basis for preventing the recurrence of catastrophes, such as the two World Wars that inflicted immeasurable sufferings on humankind, for safeguarding world peace and security and for achieving socio-economic progress. The most important meaning of the founding of the United Nations is the establishment of the principle of sovereign equality in international relations, which has enabled all States on this planet, large and small, to join their efforts for peace and development.

The history of the United Nations, spanning 65 years, is the history of continued challenges to the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter. The logic and politics of power, which seek to negate sovereign equality, still remain in sight in international relations, even today after the turn of the century. International law and order are trampled on by the arbitrariness and high-handedness of individual Powers. Military invasions of sovereign States, arms build-ups and threats of use of force continue

unchecked and, what is more, a series of pretexts are used to justify them.

Despicable trickery and attempts to overthrow other countries' socio-political systems have become ever more rampant. The banner of human rights protection and the institutional mechanism of the United Nations General Assembly are abused to that end. To deny the right of other countries to choose their own systems constitutes in itself a violation of the human rights of their people. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea is one of those victimized countries.

That reality requires a strengthening of the role of the United Nations, in conformity with the changed times and situation, which, in our view, is possible only after a more dynamic and appropriate reform of the United Nations. The composition and the rules of procedure of the Security Council should be restructured and revised in such a way that the representation and will of the entire United Nations membership are correctly reflected, in particular, by the full representation of the non-aligned countries and other developing countries. The representation of a new group of United Nations Member States that achieved independence after the founding of the United Nations should also be ensured.

The authority of the General Assembly should be enhanced decisively. The General Assembly, which is the most democratic organ in the United Nations, has less power than the undemocratic Security Council. That abnormal situation should no longer be allowed to continue. In addressing key issues such as peace and development, the broad and active participation of the developing countries and their interests should be duly promoted.

The Korean peninsula, like the Middle East, has long been a chronic hot spot seriously affecting world peace and security. The United Nations has included the Korean issue as a major item on its agenda for over 30 years. This led to the adoption of resolution 3390 (XXX) in 1975, calling for the dissolution of the United Nations Command in South Korea, the withdrawal of all foreign forces there and the replacement of the Armistice Agreement with a peace agreement, as a measure to reduce tension and maintain lasting peace on the Korean peninsula.

Another 35 years have elapsed since then. The Korean peninsula is nevertheless still in a state of armistice, which means that there is neither war nor peace. While the aforesaid resolution is yet to be implemented, the sovereignty and the efforts of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea towards peaceful development are constantly threatened and undermined, as explosive situations leading to the brink of war are created periodically on the Korean peninsula. The most recent example is the farcical huge sabre-rattling arms build-up and threat of use of force waged on a massive scale by the United States and South Korean authorities on the Korean peninsula and its surroundings by taking advantage of the *Cheonan* incident.

The touch-and-go situation created some time ago in North-East Asia, including the Korean peninsula, proved once again without a doubt that the United States is not a defender, but a disruptor of peace. As long as the United States nuclear aircraft carriers sail around the seas of our country, our nuclear deterrent can never be abandoned, but should rather be strengthened further. That is the lesson we have drawn.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea regards it as its noble duty as a Member State to safeguard peace and security and promote socio-economic development and common prosperity in and around the Korean peninsula. Had it not been for the powerful war deterrent built by the Songun politics of the great leader of our people, General Kim Jong Il, the Korean peninsula would have already been turned into a battlefield scores of times, thus destroying regional peace and stability.

A peaceful environment is most urgently needed for the Government and people of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, as they are now concentrating all efforts on economic development in order to open the gate for a powerful and prosperous State in 2012, which marks the centennial anniversary of the birth of the great leader, President Kim Il Sung. This year, which falls on the sixtieth anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea again proposed respectfully to the parties to the Armistice Agreement to begin talks as early as possible with a view to replacing the Armistice Agreement with a peace agreement. If that proposal is realized, the General Assembly will see the implementation of its historic resolution adopted 35 years ago. The conclusion of a peace agreement will represent the most effective confidence-building measure for removing distrust among the parties to the Armistice and serve as a powerful driving force

guaranteeing the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.

There is no change in the position of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in its opposition to nuclear war, the nuclear arms race and nuclear proliferation. The denuclearization of the Korean peninsula is the policy goal maintained consistently by the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for peace and security in North-East Asia and the denuclearization of the world. The denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, referred to in the Joint Statement of the Six-Party Talks issued on 19 September 2005, means the process of turning the whole Korean peninsula into a nuclear-weapon-free zone by completely eliminating the real external nuclear threats on the Korean peninsula in a verifiable manner. As already clarified, our nuclear weapons do not serve as a means to attack or threaten others, but as a self-defensive deterrent, for all intents and purposes, to counter aggression and attacks from outside.

As a responsible nuclear-weapon State, we are willing to join in the international efforts for nuclear non-proliferation and the safe management of nuclear material on an equal footing with other nuclear-weapon States. It is the long-cherished desire of the entire Korean nation to put an end to the history of disgraceful division forced upon it by foreign forces and to live peacefully on a reunified land.

In the new century, important progress towards reconciliation, common prosperity and reunification has been achieved in inter-Korean relations. The historic inter-Korean summit between the North and the South in 2000 and its resultant adoption of the joint declaration of 15 June, followed by another inter-Korean summit in 2007 and the publication of the declaration of 4 October, constitute a good programme for reunification, unprecedented in our national history. Those historic declarations were welcomed and warmly supported by the United Nations General Assembly.

Unfortunately, the present South Korean authorities reject this grand reunification programme and are driving inter-Korean relations towards a rupture by bringing forward the so-called "three-phase unification proposal", which is anti-reunification and confrontational. They are stepping up an atmosphere of war against their fellow countrymen in collusion with foreign forces with a view to rationalizing their confrontational policy against the North. The anti-reunification forces have no place on the Korean peninsula and, as such, the anti-peace forces should not be offered a place in the international community. In the future, the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea will thoroughly implement the joint declaration of 15 June and the declaration of 4 October, and thus achieve the reconciliation and unity of the nation, which will surely open a new era of independent reunification, peace and prosperity.

The ideal of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's foreign policy is independence, peace and friendship. It accords with the ideas of the United Nations. In accordance with that ideal, the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea will further strengthen and develop friendly and cooperative relations with all Member States and fully discharge its responsibilities for ensuring peace and security in the Korean peninsula and the rest of the world.

In conclusion, my delegation totally rejects the provocative statement delivered by the South Korean delegation on 25 September (see A/65/PV.17), which referred to the *Cheonan* incident again and distorted the presidential statement of the Security Council of 9 July 2010 (S/PRST/2010/13 and S/PV.6355). The truth of the *Cheonan* incident is still under cover. The results of the unilateral investigation of South Korea, have raised one doubt after another since its release, following scientific military analysis and growing manifold criticism inside and outside South Korea. The South Korean authorities have persistently refused to accept our proposal to send a field inspection group for scientific and objective verification of the truth of the incident.

The Security Council, in its presidential statement dated 9 July 2010, took note of responses from other relevant parties, including the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, which has stated that it had nothing to do with the incident and encouraged the settlement of all outstanding issues by peaceful means to resume direct dialogue and negotiations. South Korea is advised not to create tension on the Korean peninsula by waging war exercises with outside forces and pursuing a confrontational approach in defiance of the concerns of the international community. It should immediately embark on North-South dialogue so as to find solutions to all outstanding issues, as recommended by the presidential statement of the Security Council.

**The President** (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Vitaly Churkin, head of the delegation of the Russian Federation.

**Mr. Churkin** (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): The current, sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly has started with an unprecedented number of events covering the full range of the most topical international issues. It is encouraging that, in the light of the numerous challenges facing mankind, a positive unified platform for collective action has been taking shape, with the United Nations playing the central role. Having learned from the dramatic events of recent decades and having realized that attempts to cut the Gordian knot by force in violation of the Charter will only lead to deadlock, the international community has concluded that there is no alternative but to address political, economic and other problems through joint efforts based on international law. And the United Nations provides a universal platform to strengthen this positive trend in international relations.

The Security Council is a key instrument of this Organization to maintain international peace and security. The high-level Security Council meeting held on 23 September (S/PV.6389) reaffirmed its members' intention to enhance that body's efficiency, not only through direct involvement in conflict settlement but also by creating prerequisites for the non-recurrence and prevention of crises. This proves that the comprehensive approach to ensuring international security is gaining ground, as it reflects modern realities and is based on the principles and provisions of the United Nations Charter.

The United Nations faces unprecedented, serious and multifaceted tasks in the key area of peacekeeping. While paying tribute to the efforts and sacrifice of thousands of men and women Blue Helmets, joint efforts should continue to refine the theory and practice of peacekeeping under United Nations auspices and to improve the quality of planning and the conduct of peacekeeping operations with adequate political control by the Security Council.

It is encouraging that the United Nations is working towards this goal on a truly collective basis. Member States have quite a few constructive ideas on their table, which include Russia's initiative to revitalize the Military Staff Committee in order to improve the military expertise of Security Council decisions.

This year has been marked by progress in nuclear disarmament. The 2010 Treaty between the United States of America and the Russian Federation on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms, signed by the Presidents of Russia and the United States in Prague, is a real contribution by our two countries to strengthening international security and strategic stability. It is also the result of positive changes in the relations between Russia and the United States that have placed Russian-American interaction in world affairs on a qualitatively new level.

We hope that the strong impetus provided by Moscow and Washington to the nuclear disarmament process will be followed similarly by all nations, primarily by nuclear-weapon States.

Pursuant to Russia's policy towards strengthening the United Nations role in global security, disarmament and confidence-building, we intend to table three draft resolutions during the current General Assembly session: one on transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space activities, co-sponsored with China; a draft resolution on developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security; and a Russia-United States co-sponsored draft resolution on bilateral strategic offensive arms reductions and the new framework for strategic relations. We call for their adoption by consensus.

The universalization of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and its guaranteed strict implementation comprise the cornerstone of a strengthened international non-proliferation regime. In that context, the search must continue for an effective solution to the Iranian nuclear problem on the basis of NPT provisions and the norms of international Law. The Iranian side must ensure the requisite level of transparency and cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), which is acting on behalf of the international community with the Security Council's support.

Clarifying the outstanding questions about the Iranian nuclear programme would not only meet the goal of strengthening the non-proliferation regime but would also quite obviously promote the interests of Iran. Russia sees no reasonable alternative to a political and diplomatic settlement of the Iranian nuclear

problem through constructive dialogue between Tehran and the six countries involved. The meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the six countries in New York helped to consolidate the shared intention to ensure the earliest resumption of such a dialogue. We will continue to do our utmost to achieve this goal.

As far as the sanctions instrument is concerned, sanctions are not a goal in themselves. The objective of the sanctions regime established by the Security Council is to signal to Iran that it must fully cooperate with IAEA, and to give an impetus to the negotiating process. All members of the international community must show solidarity based on mutual responsibility. We strongly reject a situation in which unilateral decisions — including ex-territorial ones that undermine the very foundation of further joint efforts — are made with regard to sanctions in parallel to collective efforts by the United Nations Security Council. We must put an end to that practice, which runs counter to international law and has negative political effects.

Even more obvious, the economic and financial trade blockade of Cuba, whose lifting the General Assembly has demanded for a number of years, is clearly an anachronism. The codification of the principle of equal and indivisible security is indispensable to productive international efforts in this field, which is the precise goal of President Medvedev's initiative to conclude a treaty on European security. The proposal targets the complete transition of Euro-Atlantic policy from its old Cold War agenda to a new one, as well as a firm legal foundation for the principle of indivisible security for all in the Euro-Atlantic region proclaimed in the 1990s. We welcome the substantive dialogue on this important Russian initiative, which has started in various international forums.

A comprehensive settlement in the Middle East would make a crucial contribution towards strengthened global stability. The parties must demonstrate political will and extend every effort to promote the success of the resumed direct Palestinian-Israeli talks. The results of the ministerial Quartet meeting of major international mediators held on 21 September demonstrated that appropriate support to the Israelis and Palestinians will continue, but the ultimate responsibility for a successful outcome rests with them.

In this connection, the decision by the Israeli authorities to not extend the moratorium on Israeli settlement activities has raised serious concern. A way out of the current impasse should be found so as to ensure that negotiations continue. Our proposal to hold an international conference on the Middle East in Moscow is aimed at advancing the Middle East settlement. This proposal has gained the support of all interested parties and the United Nations Security Council. If the direct Palestinian-Israeli dialogue becomes stable, the preparations for the Moscow forum can get under way, which should also substantively examine the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, as well as the prospects for the multilateral aspects of the Middle East settlement.

The development of a comprehensive strategy to address the interconnected problems of the Middle East is on the agenda. It is necessary to continue working towards an international conference in 2012 on the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery in the Middle East, pursuant to the decision of the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

Russia supports the international strategy for a comprehensive settlement and for post-conflict rehabilitation of Afghanistan adopted by the Kabul Conference, which envisages a stage-by-stage transfer of responsibility for the situation in that country to Afghan authorities, as effective governing structures are established in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. The future of Afghanistan must be determined by the Afghan people themselves. The international community must continue to provide its assistance, with an important role being played by the United Nations.

Lasting stabilization in Afghanistan and throughout the region will be impossible without resolving the drug problem. The dimension of the danger posed by narcotics emanating from Afghanistan represents a clear threat to international peace and stability and requires more resolute actions throughout the entire chain of the production and proliferation of narcotics — from the destruction of drug crops to the suppression of precursor supplies, including drug traffickers on the sanction lists of the Security Council. It is also necessary to move to a new level of international cooperation. Russia's initiative to establish financial and counter-narcotics security belts

along the perimeter of Afghan's borders is consistent with those goals.

The regional dimension of the long-term stabilization of Afghanistan is becoming ever more topical. To that end, we must fully engage the potential of relevant organizations that are actively working in close contact with Kabul on Afghan issues, including the Collective Security Treaty Organization and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

The settlement process in the Sudan is approaching an important milestone. As the date of referendum on the self-determination of the South of that country draws closer, the parties to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement must redouble their efforts to overcome the problems that still divide them. We should also give new impetus to the Darfur settlement process. At stake is the stability of conditions in the Sudan and throughout the vast African continent. We welcome the constructive attitude demonstrated by the Sudanese and other participants in the high-level meeting on the Sudan that was held here recently.

In Somalia, the confrontation continues between the Transitional Federal Government, supported by the international community, and extremists and terrorist groups linked with Al-Qaida. The lack of a settlement on land is fuelling the problem of piracy off the coast of Somalia. A more resolute pursuit of the political process and stronger assistance to the peacekeeping operation of the African Union and further counter-piracy efforts, including the criminal prosecution of pirates, are priorities in international efforts on the Somali track, as reiterated during the recent mini-summit on Somalia, which Russia fully supports.

The results of the Millennium Development Goals summit have reaffirmed the important role of the United Nations on development matters and must help mobilize political support and financial resources for the timely achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). That requires joint efforts by Governments, international financial and trade institutions, the private sector and civil society, based on the principles of global partnership and shared responsibility.

It is obvious that most global problems, including the achievement of the MDGs, cannot be resolved without engaging innovations, advanced technologies and modernization solutions. The same is valid for such challenges as climate change, energy and food security and the fight against diseases. The engagement of the enormous potential of the United Nations, its family and system of specialized agencies in this area will allow the Organization to become a catalyst in the establishment and development of multilateral modernization alliances. Russia is prepared to participate actively in that work.

To live up to expectations, the United Nations must continuously renew itself. The reform of the Organization is progressively moving forward. This year, the negotiations on strengthening system-wide coherence were completed successfully. In particular, the new important United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women has been established.

Negotiations will continue at the current session of the General Assembly on the expansion of the composition of the Security Council. This is an extremely important issue on the reform agenda of the Organization, involving the interests of the overwhelming majority of States. For that reason, the final formula for Security Council reform should be based on compromise and the broadest possible agreement in the United Nations. This requirement is also fully applicable to all other aspects of United Nations reform.

This year marks the sixty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations, as well as that of the end of the Second World War, from the ashes of which the world Organization was born. For the sake of the memory of the millions of victims and in order to prevent a repetition of such scourges, we must suppress attempts to falsify the events associated with that historic calamity. That is the aim of a well-known Russian initiative in the United Nations. We count on the broadest support for a draft resolution on the topic.

The United Nations is our common and unique Organization. It is up to all of us to determine how productive and really useful its future work will be for humankind. By pulling our efforts together, we will be able to renew the United Nations effectively and provide it with all the necessary resources. We are convinced that reasonable resources spent on that goal will bring tangible dividends to all members of the international community in the form of durable peace, security, cooperation and prosperity all over the globe.

*The meeting rose at 12.30 p.m.*

United Nations A/65/PV.24

General Assembly
Sixty-fifth session

Official Records

24th plenary meeting
Wednesday, 29 September 2010, 3 p.m.
New York

*President*: Mr. Deiss ..... (Switzerland)

*The meeting was called to order at 3 p.m.*

**Agenda item 8 (*continued*)**

**General debate**

**The President** (*spoke in French*): I give the floor to the chair of the delegation of the Republic of Moldova.

**Mr. Cujba** (Republic of Moldova): At the outset, I would like to join previous speakers in addressing our sincere congratulations to you, Sir, on your election as President of the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session and to assure you of the full support of our delegation.

This year, the general debate is being held on the eve of the sixty-fifth anniversary of the entry into force of the United Nations Charter, which laid the foundation of our Organization. For more than six decades, the United Nations has been tested by numerous challenges and crises. Today, we can proudly state that it has proven its relevance, importance and vision for humankind.

We extend our appreciation to Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for his tireless efforts in steering the work of this global Organization and addressing critical international issues. We commend his engagement in convening the High-level Plenary Meeting on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), during which Member States, including my own country, assessed the progress achieved and the numerous challenges we face in implementing the MDGs.

The Republic of Moldova is committed to the accomplishment of the MDGs by 2015. As a member of the Economic and Social Council, Moldova presented its comprehensive national voluntary report on the MDGs during the Council's annual ministerial review meeting in July. The inclusion of the MDGs in our national policies and their effective implementation are among my Government's main priorities. I take this opportunity to express our appreciation to the organizations of the United Nations system for their support in reaching the Goals.

The economic and financial crises that beset the international community have been exacerbated by food insufficiency and natural disasters, local and regional conflicts, terrorism and transborder criminality. The issues on the agenda of the United Nations reflect modern realities and challenges. I would like to bring to the Assembly's attention a few areas that are of the utmost importance, namely, human rights and democracy, welfare and sustainable development, climate change, peace and security and, last but not least, the reform of the United Nations.

Building a state of law lies at the heart of the overall activities of the Moldovan Government. The development of legal and institutional frameworks in the area of human rights and strengthening human rights protection mechanisms are among our Government's main objectives. While our country is characterized by diversity and multiculturalism and

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intercultural and interreligious dialogue, we reiterate our commitment to fighting extremism, xenophobia and other forms of racism and discrimination.

Our country became a member of the Human Rights Council for the first time in 2010. Our membership is in line with Moldova's irreversible course towards protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms. We assumed the commitment to contribute to the prevention of human rights violations through our active participation in the Council's activities. We will present our first national report under the Universal Periodic Review mechanism in 2011.

I would also like to point out that Moldova is a State party to nearly all multilateral treaties in the field of human rights within the United Nations system. Last week, we deposited with the Secretary-General our ratification document on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. We will soon become a full-fledged member of the International Criminal Court (ICC), following the recent ratification by the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova of the Rome Statute of the ICC.

We express our solidarity with the appeals articulated in various United Nations forums that more be invested in the advancement of women. We support the Secretary-General's Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health. Likewise, we are confident that the new entity, UN Women, will contribute to the consolidation of international efforts to achieve the goals of equality and advancement for all women.

Although the impact of the global economic crisis has had a negative effect on the economy of the Republic of Moldova, including on the achievement of MDG targets, the crisis has also constituted a turning point in starting new economic reforms, building up innovative partnerships and mobilizing all national stakeholders in order to create a sustainable economic and social system. To that end, the Government has proceeded to change the country's development paradigm to an economy based on investments, innovations and competitiveness, creating new jobs and undertaking robust measures in the area of poverty reduction.

Those goals will not be achieved unless we create a healthy and eco-friendly environment while putting in place a sound infrastructure that protects our wealth and families from natural disasters. In recent years, Moldova has confronted considerable natural calamities, from acute droughts to harsh floods, whose devastating impact and frequency have increased each year. The harm caused to the population, agricultural and food production sectors and the overall economy is immeasurable.

On behalf of my Government, I would like to express our sincere gratitude to our development partners and to Governments and multilateral organizations for their prompt response and assistance in overcoming the consequences of the severe floods that affected our country last summer. I would also like to extend our particular gratitude to the United Nations Office in Moldova for its support in assessing post-disaster needs. For its part, my country has also extended a helping hand to others in need, contributing $100,000 to the people of Haiti.

We believe that the adoption of a post-Kyoto treaty is more relevant and vital than ever before. We have to address the challenge of climate change with a synergy of national and integrated international responses. We look forward to a positive outcome to the forthcoming Conference in Cancún.

The latest global crises have emphasized the central role the United Nations is to play in the mobilization of efforts by the international community and, more than ever, the need to increase the efficiency of the Organization. Efforts to strengthen the multilateral potential of the United Nations should be pragmatically adapted to the new realities, enhancing its influence in strict accordance with the United Nations Charter. The United Nations system therefore ought to be optimized by strengthening its main and subsidiary bodies in order to avoid duplication by different United Nations structures. In addition to increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of United Nations activities, that reform will save significant resources, which can be redirected to priority areas where the Organization's support is most needed.

A major component of the United Nations revival is the reform of the Security Council. We welcome the results achieved during the intergovernmental negotiations and believe that the success of the reform requires political commitment by all Member States. We share the view that Council membership should be expanded in both categories and that one additional non-permanent seat should be allocated to the Eastern European Group.

The importance of cooperation to enhance international security, promote disarmament and non-proliferation and counter international terrorism has been stressed by many speakers in the Hall. The terrorist acts occurring in different parts of the world demonstrate that terrorism continuously threatens international security, fundamental democratic values and human rights. The Republic of Moldova condemns terrorism and extremism in all its forms and expresses its entire support for the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

After many years of deadlock, significant progress in disarmament and non-proliferation in all its aspects was made this year. The new United States-Russia START agreement, the nuclear summit in Washington and the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons are just a few of the positive examples of increased cooperation by Member States. We welcome the entry into force, on 1 August, of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, to which Moldova made its contribution, as well as the launch of the negotiations on an arms trade treaty.

The participation of the Republic of Moldova in United Nations peacekeeping operations highlights our country's political willingness to contribute to international peace and stability and to be effectively engaged in building a strong security architecture through peacekeeping and peacebuilding activities.

The enhancement of international cooperation in the field of conflict settlement, with a view to preventing future occurrences or escalation of crisis situations that jeopardize the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, is of primary importance for my country as it confronts the secessionism phenomenon in its eastern districts.

The Republic of Moldova continues to face significant security challenges generated by separatism in the Transnistrian region of the country. Eighteen years since the ceasefire agreement was signed, Moldova remains artificially divided. Because of that, the whole system of international commitments in the fields of democratic governance, human rights and arms control is not functioning in that part of our national territory. The local population is living in a situation of a legal vacuum, with no clear future. Foreign forces are still stationed in Moldova, despite the lack of consent of the host Government and previous decisions and commitments regarding their withdrawal.

At the same time, it is absolutely obvious that there are objective considerations in resolving the Transnistrian problem. The practical steps undertaken by the Government of Moldova clearly show that the settlement of the Transnistrian conflict is one of its central priorities. We consistently advocate in favour of a policy of dialogue, openness and trust. Our efforts are concentrated on developing regular contacts between Chisinau and Tiraspol at the level of political representatives, as well as in the working groups created to build confidence in various areas. Our main goal is to provide much-needed support to the population and businesses in the region, including through international projects and programmes.

International partners in the settlement process are also showing interest in increased engagement aimed at the full territorial reintegration of the Republic of Moldova. That positive trend should be strengthened. The first step in that direction would be the earliest possible unconditional resumption of official negotiations in the "5+2" format. That would allow us to start working on a formula for a viable and comprehensive settlement based on the principles of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova.

It would also offer us the necessary framework for the implementation of confidence-building and reintegration projects, as well as for the transformation of the current so-called peacekeeping operation into a multinational civilian mission based on the relevant international standards and mandate. In that context, we firmly believe that the summit of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to be held at the end of this year should provide a clear perspective for the settlement of the Transnistrian conflict and the withdrawal of foreign forces from Moldova, in line with commitments undertaken at the previous summit.

We would like to take this opportunity to reiterate our principled position that conflict situations, whenever they appear, seriously impact peace, security and stability. They must therefore be solved on the basis of full respect for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of States.

We are concerned by attempts, particularly by non-State entities, to misinterpret and restate the sense of the International Court of Justice advisory opinion

on Kosovo. Such attempts run counter to the spirit and substance of the imperative principles of international law and endanger the international legal order and international security and stability. It is therefore of the utmost importance to make it clear that international law does not confer the right for ethnic, linguistic or religious groups to break away from the territory of a State of which they form part without that State's consent.

Like other Member States, the Republic of Moldova fully shares the view that unilateral secession cannot be an acceptable way of resolving conflict issues. When engaging in settlement efforts, we must also proceed from recognition of the fact that each and every case is unique and should not constitute a precedent for addressing and settling other conflicts of different factual context.

The Republic of Moldova is determined to advance on its path towards European integration, which is a fundamental priority of our domestic and foreign policies. The achievement of that goal will enable our country to embark on a course of stability and prosperity governed by democratic values and respect for fundamental human rights, the rule of law and economic freedom.

Moldova-European Union relations have intensified in the past year, given the firm commitment of our Government to improve ties with the European Union (EU) and its member States. On 12 January, we successfully launched negotiations on the Association Agreement and held three rounds of negotiations, during which there was a convergence of approaches. Moreover, we have launched three dialogues with the European Union, on human rights, visa liberalization and the creation of a broad and comprehensive free-trade area. We are confident that the constructive approach of our cooperation process will contribute to the advancement of our country on the European track. We are grateful to EU member States for their strong support and the firm shoulder they have provided for Moldova's ambitious European agenda.

Furthermore, we consider that since the adoption of the Lisbon Treaty, new opportunities have emerged for enhanced European Union cooperation with its international partners, including the United Nations. We express our support for the active and efficient participation of the European Union in the work of General Assembly.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate that the involvement of the Republic of Moldova in the work of the United Nations is one of the strategic objectives of our foreign policy. Our country remains committed to achieving the objectives of the United Nations Charter, as set by the founding fathers 65 years ago and embraced by all Member States.

**The President** (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the chair of the delegation of the Principality of Monaco.

**Ms. Picco** (Monaco) (*spoke in French*): I would like to convey to you, Sir, the warmest congratulations of the delegation of the Principality of Monaco on your election as President of the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session. I would like to reiterate to you that, in my capacity as a member of the Bureau, I will spare no effort to contribute to the success of your mandate in the service of the Member States and the Organization.

We are preparing to begin our work on an optimistic note because of the international community's unfailing recommitment to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as well as of the belief, reaffirmed in the general debate now drawing to a close, that the United Nations is at the heart of global governance and remains, despite the many difficulties, our best hope for ensuring peace, development and justice.

Economic growth, which is indispensable to development and therefore to peaceful international relations, cannot take off in the absence of well-defined and fair international rules and without respect for the rule of law at the national level. Our Organization has contributed tirelessly in recent years to strengthening the capacities of Member States to enable them to provide their citizens with the institutions necessary for them to flourish in their communities. The rule of law is also a guarantee that the fight against corruption is not just a vain promise, that respect for human rights is universal and that justice is independent and impartial.

The benefits of economic growth must be shared and equitable. They must take into account the needs of the most deprived and contribute to social cohesion with a view to attaining the MDGs and involving the full participation of all partners.

That is the thrust of Monaco's commitment within the Global Governance Group — the 3G —

whose members are convinced of the need to involve the Secretary-General of the United Nations in the work of the Group of 20 (G-20), given relevance of the General Assembly agenda to international governance. In that regard, I draw attention to the ministerial declaration of the Global Governance Group adopted on 27 September, with a view to contributing to the reflections of the working group on the development of the next G-20 summit, in Seoul in November.

As His Serene Highness Prince Albert II recalled before the Assembly, the Principality is determined to act as a responsible partner in solidarity and will continue its mobilization efforts, both through its official development assistance as well as through the provision of emergency assistance to populations struck by natural disasters (see A/65/PV.4).

At a moment when the presence and activities of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees are increasingly needed and increasingly dangerous, the cause of refugees and displaced persons must more than ever be placed in our policies and be backed unconditionally by the international community. Here we wish to express our recognition of the devotion of the thousands of people who labour under the banner of the United Nations, at times risking their lives, both in humanitarian emergency situations and in peacekeeping operations.

The role of women in driving development is now clear to all. I wish to pay tribute to the Secretary-General and the Deputy Secretary-General for having strengthened the role of women within the United Nations. Monaco welcomes the appointment of Ms. Michelle Bachelet to head up UN Women and assures her of our full support.

The Principality has also endorsed the conviction that investing in the health of women and children is indispensable for building societies that are more stable, more peaceful and more productive, for reducing poverty and for stimulating economic growth. In that vein, we support the Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health, which represents an additional step towards the full empowerment of women.

As atrocities continue to be perpetrated against civilians, especially the cowardly crimes of sexual violence, we pay tribute to the courage of Special Representative Ms. Margot Wallström and her commitment to making the international community aware of its responsibility and to ensuring the effective implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) as we approach the tenth anniversary of its adoption.

With your leadership, Mr. President, and our common will, the General Assembly has the means to demonstrate its central role in the major themes for our future at a moment when we are all aware of the shameful damage caused to the planet by the overexploitation of its wealth and biodiversity. We therefore attach the greatest importance to the preparation of the Rio+20 Conference and hope that the green economy and the opportunities it affords will become a major vehicle for sustainable development.

You can also count on the support of our delegation, Sir, with regard to the upcoming summit on non-communicable diseases and the consultative process on revision of the statute of the Human Rights Council and the Peacebuilding Commission, which must take into account the presidential statement adopted at the ministerial-level meeting of the Security Council on 23 September (S/PRST/2010/18).

At the beginning of the twenty-first century, our deliberations must contribute to bringing together and harmonizing our actions. Only our Organization possesses both the means and the legitimacy to successfully establish effective global governance, and we must all show pragmatism and work in a constructive spirit to achieve our goals.

The interdependence of the global challenges which all of us are facing requires us to define together a set of rules aimed at coordinating our policies and managing relations between Governments, the private sector and civil society. We share your belief, Mr. President, that our Organization should be at the heart of that new multilateralism, which should be founded on integration and solidarity.

**The President** (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Sonatane Taumoepeau-Tupou, chair of the delegation of the Kingdom of Tonga.

**Mr. Taumoepeau-Tupou** (Tonga): I too offer you, Sir, my warmest congratulations upon your election to the presidency of the General Assembly at this our sixty-fifth session. Let me assure you, as always, of the cooperation and support of the Tongan delegation. I also express my gratitude to your predecessor His Excellency Mr. Ali Treki for his

recently concluded term as President at our sixty-fourth session.

I wish to also thank the tireless Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, for his resolute leadership of the Organization during these times of unprecedented and challenging global events. We also acknowledge the enduring work of the Organization's Secretariat and its agencies, and in particular those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the furtherance of that work.

A decade on, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) continue to reflect our firm global resolve to ensure a durably improved quality of life for all of our peoples — a global pursuit of happiness, if you will. It is no surprise, then, that the MDGs are now a core component of our national development planning.

Tonga has recently produced its second national MDG report, which highlights positive results across the eight Goals. With regard to MDG 1, on the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger, the report suggests that, while the international community acknowledges that Tonga does not suffer from extreme poverty or hunger, there are some households that do suffer hardship, and their needs are being addressed. With regard to Goal 2, the net enrolment ratio in primary education for 2008 was 93 per cent, indicating that Tonga has almost achieved universal basic education. Goal 6, as it relates to halting and reversing the incidence of non-communicable diseases by 2015, and Goal 5, as it relates to universal access to reproductive health, both remain challenges.

Yet despite the continuing uncertain global economic and financial climate, Tonga remains committed, in the five years remaining until 2015, and beyond, to making further strides towards achieving the MDGs. We look forward to completing one such stride on MDG 6 next year, in 2011, with the timely convening of a high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases.

The MDGs, in our view, as much as marking the advent of the twenty-first century, reflect our aspirational goals for this millennium beyond 2015. Much of any future progress for Tonga will be contingent on our determination and ability to rely on our own domestic efforts, complemented by the actions of our development partners and the international community.

At the annual meeting of the Pacific Islands Forum leaders held in Port Vila last month, leaders adopted the Port Vila Declaration on Accelerating Progress on the Achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, wherein they drew linkages between the attainment of the MDGs and the state of progress in the 19 focal areas of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation.

If the landmark Barbados Programme of Action placed small island developing States (SIDS) firmly on the global agenda, then the linkages between the MDGs and the Mauritius Strategy +5 Review (MSI+5) serve as an accurate compass for charting the direction that small island developing States, their development partners and the international community need to take to ensure progress. We join others in thanking the good Ambassadors of Luxembourg and Singapore for brokering the consensus outcome of the MSI+5.

Like others, Tonga calls for the creation of a formal SIDS category within the United Nations system that not only improves the internal linkages and infrastructure within the system but ultimately improves its ability to better relate to and respond to the needs of SIDS. Without some measure of adjustments to the manner in which the United Nations system addresses SIDS and SIDS issues, progress will remain stilted.

Climate change properly continues to dominate the majority of statements we have heard this week and last. In the end our collective ability as States could not adequately meet the burden of global expectations in Copenhagen, and many States like Tonga were left to look for what little positive outcome the Copenhagen Accord represents. Therein lies the potential for all of us to reach beyond our narrow national and regional interests in Cancún and embrace our collective responsibility and duty to each other as nation-States, particularly to those States that are most vulnerable, least responsible for this situation and least able to address the capricious whims of climate change.

In taking forward the work of the Pacific SIDS on the consensus resolution entitled "Climate change and its possible security implications" (resolution 63/281), we would join others in strongly encouraging current and prospective members of the Security Council to seize the moral imperative and follow the momentum by taking positive and proactive action on the resolution. As the final arbiter of international peace

and security, the Council must ensure it positions itself in an active leadership role on this issue.

Tonga continues to follow the course of the ongoing exchanges among our membership on the reform of the Security Council and the limited progress that has been made to date. An organization such as ours that wishes to retain its broad relevance and global primacy in this day and age has to be open and willing to seriously reconsider those elements that give it a unique and distinctive quality. In our view, the Security Council and its composition constitute one of those elements.

We maintain our support for Council reform. It is already somewhat self-evident that there should be an expansion in both categories of membership, permanent and non-permanent, with certain States — Japan, Germany, Brazil and India — being worthy of permanent membership on an enhanced Council. The permanent membership category must also take favourable account of seats for Africa.

Tonga remains supportive of the substantive efforts for direct talks by President Obama and his Administration, the Quartet and regional neighbours to find a comprehensive, just and enduring peace in the Middle East. Despite the pursuit of the seemingly elusive goal of two States living side by side within secure borders and in lasting peace and genuine security, including a viable Palestinian State that can realize the true potential of its people, we encourage all parties to continue this fresh round of dialogue with a renewed sense of purpose and conviction.

Tonga was one of the 13 Pacific SIDS that participated in an historic summit between Pacific leaders and the League of Arab States earlier this year in Abu Dhabi in order to share perspectives on the current and future challenges faced by our respective regions. That historic summit and its outcome represent the ever-expanding development of Tonga's foreign policy interests to include countries and regions that had hitherto not been considered. That development comes firmly on the heels of our active engagement with the International Renewable Energy Agency and our continuing interest in the potential of renewable energy and the first-time visit to Tonga and a number of other Pacific SIDS by His Highness Sheikh Abdullah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan to develop relations with our region. In that regard, we acknowledge with appreciation the Partnership in the Pacific Programme and its potential to meet the development aspirations of the peoples of the Pacific.

Earlier this year, Tonga, in compliance with its obligations under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, formally presented its partial submission to the Commission on the Outer Limits of the Continental Shelf. One issue of concern that arose as a result of our formal presentation to the Commission is the likely lengthy time frame for consideration of submissions such as Tonga's. We encourage our fellow States parties to the Convention to thoughtfully consider the adjustments necessary for the Commission to fulfil its mandate with respect to all States parties in a reasonably timely manner.

Tonga welcomes the successful conclusion of the 2010 review of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, particularly, the continuing acknowledgement of the concerns of SIDS over the safe transport of radioactive materials by sea and the announcement by the United States of its intention to pursue ratification of the Protocols to the Treaty of Rarotonga.

When my Prime Minister addressed this body last year, it marked the tenth anniversary of Tonga's admission as a State Member of the United Nations. Our admission was culmination of a journey towards statehood that began with tentative steps 135 years ago, in 1875, with the granting of Tonga's Constitution by King George I.

And after 135 years, we realize that our domestic system of governance needs to be strengthened in ways that align itself more readily with the strong and vibrant systems of democratic governance prevalent today. And so, simultaneous with my delivery of these remarks here today is the historic closure of the current session of Tonga's Legislative Assembly, the last under the existing system of governance. Elections under the new system are scheduled to take place later this year, on 25 November. So while the modalities for improving democratic representation have been enhanced, the fundamental values and freedoms guaranteed in the Constitution continue to protect and support all Tongans.

As any small island developing State appreciates, a presence here in New York represents a significant sacrifice of already scarce resources, but it is made in the knowledge that despite our size, our remoteness and our geographical isolation we are not immune to

the global challenges that beset us all. Therefore we have a responsibility to our Government and our people to be more than mere bystanders in the work of our Organization.

As such, Tonga reaffirms the rights and responsibilities bestowed upon it by the United Nations Charter, and we pledge in our own way to continue to participate actively and constructively to give an enduring Tongan voice to the global issues of concern to us all. And while many subgroupings and variations of States such as the Group of 20 or the Group of Eight may convene from time to time for a particular purpose or timely nuance, whether it be reforming the international financial governance institutions or reinvigorating international environmental governance, the pivotal role of the United Nations as a viable institution remains constant against an ever-changing backdrop.

Finally, any other 65-year-old might be contemplating retirement, but our Organization's strength rests as much in the principles of the Charter as it does in the people it must continue to inspire and remain relevant to, especially our young people. During this, the International Year of Youth, the United Nations and all of us must ensure a legacy worth passing on to the next generation.

**The President** (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Camillo Gonsalves, chair of the delegation of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

**Mr. Gonsalves** (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines): Saint Vincent and the Grenadines welcomes, Sir, your ascension to the presidency of the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session with a great deal of anticipation. As one of the primary architects of your own country's membership in the United Nations, you have demonstrated your belief in the importance of this institution and its role in the modern international context. As you stand on the shoulders of the giants who have preceded you in this role, we are confident that you will ably apply your unique set of skills and experiences to the advancement of our complex agenda.

We are also excited by the theme that you have proposed for your tenure as President of the General Assembly, namely, reaffirming the central role of the United Nations in global governance. It is a theme that resonates loudly with Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and indeed with many of the small and marginalized States that form a significant part of the 192 members of the General Assembly.

We small States have emerged as some of the most jealous and zealous guardians of the United Nations Charter. This vigilance is born of principle and necessity. The Charter is the document that guarantees our place in the Assembly as the sovereign equals of every other country of the world. The United Nations remains the only venue that affords us both a seat and a voice in global affairs. To Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, the United Nations must be the centre of global governance because it is our only option for global governance. There are some States that fortuitously find themselves in the inner sanctums of the Security Council — and the Group of Eight (G-8), and the Group of Twenty (G-20) and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. For them, the centrality of the United Nations may vary with the political winds or the shifting sands of great power intrigue. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has no such luxury. We cannot take our ball and go home, to play on other fields and interact in other forums. The United Nations is all we have. Its centrality in global governance, for us, is therefore an essential and indisputable truth.

You assume the leadership of the General Assembly, Mr. President, at a time when the centrality of the United Nations role is being challenged as never before. Various organizations and small groupings of States, with selective membership and opaque modus operandi, have coalesced to become global decision-makers and shapers of our post-Cold War existence. For our purposes, it is irrelevant whether these groupings have formed to respond to or to precipitate the declining effectiveness of the United Nations. However, the fact is that in the face of global crises of economy, climate, trade and reform, we have been tested and we have been found wanting. We face the real threat of devolving into a mere talk shop, an amalgam of unwieldy bureaucracies or a toothless rubber stamp of decisions taken elsewhere. To avoid such an ignominious fate, we must actively defend our role and legitimacy as the global centre of international governance and decision-making. Permit us the opportunity to offer a few simple suggestions to assist in achieving this goal.

First, for the concept of global governance to have meaning and relevance, we must inject some measure of consistency and predictability into the rules

that govern our family. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is committed to the international rule of law and the role of the institutions that advance the rule of law and adjudicate international disputes. Governance is ineffective if the rich and powerful among us can place themselves beyond the ambit of timely compliance with rules and decisions.

In that regard, we cite the case of the ongoing dispute between the United States and Antigua and Barbuda on the issue of online gaming, which has already been adjudicated in Antigua and Barbuda's favour by the World Trade Organization (WTO). We urge those two countries — both strong friends of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines — to quickly arrive at a just and equitable resolution of this matter. Our region was the unfortunate, and no doubt unintended, victim of WTO rulings that have gutted our once-thriving banana industry and threatened to stall that crucial engine of our development. The case against banana tariffs was successfully brought to the WTO by the United States, which does not grow a single bunch of bananas. We are confident that our friends will honour this relatively minor gaming ruling as we have been compelled to adapt to previous paradigm-shifting decisions.

Secondly, the resolutions adopted and decisions taken by the General Assembly must have some worth beyond the paper upon which they are printed. In the dusty archives of our body are hard-fought decisions and resolutions on Palestine, on human rights and on the economic crisis. We have made annual near-unanimous calls for an end to the Cuban embargo. Then our documents are dutifully filed away to be ignored by dissenters or resuscitated in future sessions with, at best, incremental advancement. As long as General Assembly decisions and resolutions remain a buffet from which Member States can selectively pick and choose, our role in governance will continue to be hamstrung. Member States must take the sovereign decision to honour the will of the international community not because they have to but because it is the right thing to do. If we continue to champion the decisions with which we agree while disregarding all others, we are not participating with good faith in the deliberations of this body and we are doing violence to the very concept of a community of nations.

Nor should States manipulate the concept of consensus to make it a virtual veto on United Nations action. Consensus must always be a central goal, but never a barrier, to decisive action by the General Assembly. Necessary, desirable and urgent action cannot be sacrificed on the altar of consensus. Democracy demands that, when consensus cannot be achieved, the recorded will of the majority should be respected.

Thirdly, we must hold every nation to account for commitments that have been voluntarily taken. Much has been written and said about donor fatigue, which is shorthand for the limited attention span of multilateral and bilateral donors when confronting systemic development issues. Much less has been said about commitment fatigue: the developing world's exasperation with oft-made but seldom-honoured commitments. But make no mistake, fatigue has set in, as we grow increasingly tired of waiting for the 0.7 per cent of gross national income promised by the developed world at the International Conference on Financing for Development in Monterrey in 2002, the billions pledged at the G-8 Summit in Gleneagles for the doubling of aid to Africa, the $10 billion in ironically titled fast-start funding that was to materialize this year for climate change adaptation and the $1.1 trillion promised by the G-20 in April 2009.

To Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, therefore, it is puzzling how some of our friends and development partners can suffer from donor fatigue when they have yet to donate what was originally promised. It is similarly confounding when, reflective of this supposed fatigue, donors attach so many conditions and bureaucratic impediments to unlocking assistance that it becomes all but inaccessible. Small States like ours have neither the capacity nor the desire to establish entire bureaucracies dedicated solely to navigating the administrative labyrinth of irregular and unpredictable aid flows. Nor are we interested in the upkeep of armies of foreign consultants, who seem to be the primary beneficiaries of some international development efforts.

Commitment fatigue morphs into anger when considered in the context of the Haitian people in the wake of the indescribably devastating earthquake of 12 January. In March this year the United Nations held an inspiring donors conference, in which over $10 billion was pledged for Haiti's recovery from the earthquake. Today, six months after that conference, and eight months beyond the earthquake, a pathetically miniscule percentage of those pledges has actually been delivered. While less than 20,000 temporary

shelters have been built to date, over 1.5 million Haitians are still living in tents. A few days ago, we learned that women and children living in tent cities were killed when heavy rains and winds struck Haiti. No one can claim that this result was unexpected, as we in the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) have been sounding alarms for months about the dangers inherent in the imminent rainy season. To survive a catastrophic earthquake only to be killed by rain is an unfathomable tragedy. The entirely avoidable deaths of those women and children will remain a stain on the collective conscience of this body and on our membership. Talk is cheap, even when it is the heady talk of billions of dollars. Commitments made must be commitments kept. We must hold to account those who repeatedly make empty promises.

Fourthly, we must cede no ground to the creeping encroachment of non-inclusive, non-transparent and non-representative groupings. We have no doubt that, for example, the G-20 has a useful and even essential role to play in the global economy. There is an undeniable logic to a small group of the world's largest economies, almost all of which are our close friends, meeting informally to thrash out matters that affect only their large economies. However, the logic fades somewhat in the face of a crisis that has spread rapidly and comprehensively to every corner of the globe.

That is why Saint Vincent and the Grenadines noted with concern the G-20 statement from Pittsburgh a year ago, which proclaimed, "We designated the G-20 to be the premier forum for our international economic cooperation". Our esteemed friend and brother, President Obama of the United States, repeated these sentiments from this podium a few days ago when he stated, "we made the Group of 20 the focal point for international coordination" (*A/65/PV.11*).

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines was not included among the "we" who established this role for the G-20 in Pittsburg. Indeed, we, like 172 other Member States, were not admitted to the meeting, we saw no agenda and we read no minutes of the decisions that were taken. As dedicated champions of the Charter of the United Nations, we also note that Articles 1 and 55 of that document designate the United Nations as the forum for international economic cooperation and solutions.

Indeed, our caution towards the G-20 can be found in President Obama's very endorsement of it. I shall quote again from his statement of a few days ago. He said, "because in a world where prosperity is more diffuse, we must broaden our circle of cooperation to include emerging economies — economies from every corner of the globe" (ibid.). We could not agree more.

In the wake of the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression, 172 economies should not be locked out of economic discussions, waiting anxiously on the doorstep of the G-20 for signals and policy shifts that affect our continued survival. We in the Caribbean have been disproportionately and devastatingly affected by the crisis, which we played no role in creating. Yet we have been forced to rely on friendly nations as interlocutors on our behalf. We remain convinced that the deliberations and past decisions of the G-20, from its misunderstanding of the precarious vulnerabilities of small, highly-indebted, middle-income countries to its draconian outlook on offshore financial services — would have benefited from our perspective.

We therefore call on the United Nations membership to give meaning to the words of our Charter and to re-establish our body as a forum for meaningful solutions and cooperation on economic matters. We must reinvigorate the work of the Economic and Social Council. We must renew the mandate of the ad hoc working group to decisively follow up on the issues contained in the Outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and its Impact on Development (see resolution 63/303, annex).

Good global governance must therefore be premised on global inclusiveness. This is our fifth point: no corner of the world should be excluded from participation in our global family.

In that regard, we once again highlight the case of our friends in Taiwan. The United Nations and its specialized agencies must find ways to ensure the meaningful participation of the 23 million people of Taiwan. Just as their economic strength has merited inclusion in the WTO and the universality of global health challenges have logically compelled their participation in the World Health Assembly, so too should the global reach of climate change merit the meaningful participation of Taiwan in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The interconnectedness of global air travel, and our shared safety concerns, similarly mandate the

participation of Taiwan in the International Civil Aviation Authority. This is not the case of a tiny non-governmental organization, to be allowed or denied meaningful participation on some bureaucratic whim. This is a legitimate and vibrant expression of the ancient and noble Chinese culture, with a population 200 times greater than that of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

The Government and people of Taiwan have advanced a reasonable and responsible policy of engagement to usher in a new era in cross-Strait relations, and have an enviable record of development cooperation and assistance around the world. The international community can and should encourage and reward this responsible global citizenship with meaningful participation in the relevant specialized agencies.

Similarly, urgent and more inclusive reform in the membership of the Security Council is the litmus test of our verbal commitments to governance, reform and revitalization. There is simply no justification for the continued exclusion of the entire African continent or other significant and influential emerging powers from permanent membership in the Security Council. The defenders of the status quo may soon find that they are protecting an increasingly irrelevant and illegitimate institution.

However, we feel that the Council is too important to be allowed to whither into obsolescence. Reform and expansion of the permanent and non-permanent membership of the Security Council, including the provision of dedicated non-permanent membership for small island developing States, is an imperative that is long past due.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is proud to have announced its candidacy for a non-permanent seat on the Security Council for the 2020-2021 term. If successful, we would be the smallest country ever, by population, to occupy such a position, and only the fourth of CARICOM's 14 United Nations Member States to assume such a responsibility. Our bid is premised on the historical exclusion of CARICOM States and small island developing States from this critical body, and the value that we believe our presence and perspective will bring to the Council's deliberations.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines makes miniscule monetary and military contributions to the United Nations. But our contribution to the maintenance of international peace and security is measured in our historical aversion to wars, our culture of tolerance, peace and plurality and the perspective of a small State that understands that peace is not always best achieved with millions of dollars or armed enforcers, but often with dialogue and small but meaningful peacebuilding actions. Our contribution is succinctly captured in our national motto, which, translated from Latin, reads simply "Peace and Justice".

Sixthly, and most important, we must never be shy to use this institution to operationalize our commonly held ambitions for a better world and to tackle the global issues of our day. Too often, we spend time lowering, rather than rising to meet, the expectations of a world that is clamouring for our collective leadership.

Our continued failures to achieve a binding solution on climate change mitigation and adaptation is a case in point. In the months since the painful lessons of the so-called Copenhagen Accord, devastating floods in Pakistan and heatwaves and fires in Russia have shown us once again that no nation is immune from the reach and impact of climate change. But the vulnerability of large nations to ruinous hurricanes, floods and fires does not approach the very unique and specific existential vulnerabilities of small island developing States. For, while all States are vulnerable to natural disasters, only small island developing States are threatened with being wiped off the map entirely and ceasing to exist.

As such, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is not interested in the lowering of expectations as we head to Cancún. The need for a binding and meaningful agreement on climate change cannot be deferred indefinitely. We view with disgust the transparent attempts to measure the financial or political cost of doing what must be done to save our planet. We are threatening to destroy our own world, as we shamelessly squabble over dollars and degrees. If we fail in this endeavour, history will look most unfavourably on the narrow, short-term interests that we placed ahead of our own survival.

In a similar vein, and in the interest of time, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines echoes and adopts as our own the proposals enunciated by our CARICOM sister States for prompt action on the global challenges of

non-communicable diseases, small arms, narcotics and transnational crime, the decade-old Doha Development Round of trade negotiations, international cooperation in tax matters and concessional assistance and debt relief for middle-income island States. We cannot allow narrow ideological agendas to distract us or detract from the accomplishment of these tasks, upon which there is broad agreement.

Finally, a crucial component of the overarching principle of sovereign equality is that of sovereignty itself. We believe wholeheartedly that, in the words of the great Caribbean singer and poet Bob Marley, "every man has a right to decide his own destiny". We therefore reject, with equal fervour, any foreign or outside interference in the democratic processes of independent States. This is a principle upon which we are unyielding. In many of our small countries, it takes only a few minor mercenaries, or ideologically misguided or misinformed millionaires, to fundamentally threaten the fabric of our fragile democracies. Unfortunately, those interlopers are often aided and abetted by those unpatriotic opportunists who see sovereignty as a fungible commodity, to be bartered and traded to the highest nefarious bidder for short-term political gain.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is populated by a proud and noble people, with a history of fierce struggle for freedom and independence. There is a steel in the psyche of our Caribbean civilization and its Vincentian component; a steel forged in the fires of slavery and genocide and beaten on the anvil of colonialism, exploitation and resistance. Our small size belies our indomitable spirit. We possess an independence that undergirds Cuba's heroic resistance to an unjust and internationally condemned blockade. We have a strength that informs the nobility of the Haitian people's response to unimaginable tragedy. We lay claim to a resilience that is etched in our collective history, and reverberates in the names of our region's national heroes, such as Nanny, Garvey, Bussa, Marti, and Chatoyer, to name but a few. Our democracies can be neither bought, sold nor intimidated. And our commitment to the democratic inclusiveness of the United Nations and the supremacy of its Charter is similarly unshakeable.

It is against that backdrop, Mr. President, that you will find Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to be a strong ally in your efforts to re-establish the central role of this body in matters of global governance.

**The President** (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Jorge Valero Briceño, head of the delegation of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

**Mr. Valero Briceño** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) (*spoke in Spanish*): On behalf of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, I wish the new President of this session of the General Assembly the greatest success during his term.

The Bolivarian revolution plans to contribute to the structure and agenda of the United Nations, which currently reflect the unjust power relationships that exist in the world. As it is today, this forum helps to perpetuate the unjust relations inherited from the Second World War, relations that become more exclusive and authoritarian as neoliberal globalization advances. The President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Hugo Chavez Frias, said on 15 September 2005, in his speech during the general debate at the sixtieth session of the United Nations General Assembly that "the United Nations has outgrown its model. It is not just a question of simple reform. The twenty-first century requires profound changes that will be possible only if the Organization is truly recast." (*A/60/PV.6, p.17*)

There are two poignant examples that illustrate this unfair and irrational world power architecture. For the past 19 years, the overwhelming majority of the countries of the world have come before the General Assembly to demand an end to the economic and commercial blockade imposed on the heroic Cuban people. But what has the Organization done to ensure that the United States Government abides by the will of the General Assembly? The answer is well known: nothing.

Dozens of resolutions have been adopted by the Security Council and the General Assembly on the question of Palestine, but the Israeli military and political elite refuse to comply. The occupying Power acts with total impunity and with the complicity of its main ally. What has the Security Council done to get the occupying Power to respect the principles of international law, including international humanitarian law, and particularly the four Geneva Conventions of 1949? The answer is well known: nothing.

The rebuilding of the United Nations hinges on strengthening the General Assembly and its handling of matters relating to international peace and security.

Venezuela challenges the fact that a small group of countries impose their conditions in these areas, while the opinion of the majority is not taken into account. A strategy aimed at weakening the General Assembly and excluding it from the most relevant world decisions is being implemented in the United Nations, while the Security Council progressively increases its power and influence over the United Nations agenda and takes over topics beyond the purview granted to it by the Charter of the Organization. The Secretary-General, according to the Charter of the United Nations, is an administrative officer of the Organization responsible for answering to the interests of all Member States, and not the policies of a few Powers that seek to drive the global agenda.

For almost 20 years we have been discussing the reform of the Security Council and the strengthening of the General Assembly, yet so far almost nothing has been achieved. The call from President Chavez to recast the United Nations remains fully valid. To that end, Venezuela proposes to eliminate the right of veto enjoyed by only five Members of the United Nations. This remnant of the Second World War is incompatible with the principle of the sovereign equality of States. Venezuela also proposes an increase in the Security Council's membership in both the permanent and non-permanent categories. Why are developing countries deprived of the right to participate in that forum?

Venezuela therefore urges all States to propose candidates for the post of Secretary-General, with the aim of democratizing elections to this senior post. We believe that resolution 11 (I), adopted on 24 January 1946, regarding the terms of election of the Secretary-General, in no way restricts the ability of Member States to discuss and vote in this election. In line with democratic principles and transparency, Member States must participate in both the nomination and the appointment of this senior official. States would therefore be free to choose among several alternatives.

Rebuilding the United Nations also requires that the General Assembly fully exercise its responsibilities in matters of international peace and security, as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.

Climate change negotiations are unfolding in a complex context that makes it difficult to arrive at consensus on the majority of topics. Developed countries reject international commitments that are fully in force, specifically the Kyoto Protocol. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela hopes that, at the next Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be held in Cancún at the end of this year, a legally binding agreement is reached that is ambitious and respects the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol.

Venezuela is fighting for the creation of a development model based on a new paradigm that substitutes the prevailing models of production and consumption. Developing countries and the most vulnerable sectors of developed countries suffer the impact of the economic and financial crises of capitalism. It is therefore essential and necessary to consider a transformation of this inhumane model that, with its new crisis, has generated more hunger, poverty, unemployment and inequality. The crisis of capitalism has not ended. Its structural nature reproduces itself ad infinitum. Privileged groups, the financial economy, speculators, monopolies and oligopolies and the Bretton Woods institutions will continue to try to have the crisis paid for by developing countries and the world's poor and most vulnerable. Neoliberal policies, which are applied as a result of the global crisis of capitalism, propose the totalitarianism of the financial markets, deepening the gap between the rich and the poor within those countries and widening the inequalities between the North and the South.

It is also important to underscore that the efforts of the developed countries in the context of official development assistance (ODA) have not been sustained, as large donors have repeatedly not fulfilled their pledges when it comes to the agreed goal of allocating 0.7 per cent of their gross domestic product to ODA.

Faced with this crisis, developing countries should strengthen South-South cooperation and create alternative sovereign mechanisms to avoid the credit monopoly maintained by the Bretton Woods institutions. To that end, Venezuela aims to create and strengthen regional financial institutions such as the Bank of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America — Peoples' Trade Agreement (ALBA-TCP) and the Bank of the South. We welcome the initiatives in that regard that are being undertaken in Africa and Asia.

South-South cooperation is a top priority for Venezuela. In Latin America and the Caribbean there

are already successful experiences such as that of Petrocaribe, which fosters supportive cooperation in the energy sector, and that of ALBA-TCP, which is producing successful results in overcoming poverty and inequality. These novel forms of solidarity and supportive cooperation contribute to the development of our peoples and to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

I take great satisfaction in pointing out that, despite the problematic international economic and financial environment, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela has met almost all of the Millennium Development Goals, in particular in the areas of poverty, health, nutrition, education, child mortality and sanitation, among others. We would like to underscore that Venezuela assumed the presidency of the Latin American and Caribbean Summit on Integration and Development in February 2010. The third Summit will be held in our country on 5 July 2011, within the framework of the historic bicentennial anniversary of our signing of our Declaration of Independence.

Venezuela attaches particular importance to the process of union and integration in Latin America and the Caribbean. Progress to that end will lead to the full operation of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, thereby achieving the dream of our liberators as reflected in the Constitution of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. The union of our peoples — the peoples of the South fighting for independence, freedom, sovereignty and self-determination — is a priority of our Simon Bolivar national project, as enshrined in our first socialist plan for the period 2007 to 2013.

In the face of recurrent attempts to erode the sovereignty of countries and in the face of a savage capitalist and neoliberal offensive, the Bolivarian Government calls for the relaunching of the Group of 77 and China and the Non-Aligned Movement so that developing countries can more forcefully defend the interests of their peoples.

We wish to avail ourselves of this opportunity at the rostrum to express our appreciation for the compliments sent to President Hugo Chávez Frías by numerous Governments and social and popular movements from around the world on the occasion of the victory in the Venezuelan parliamentary elections last Sunday, 26 September. That victory is a clear testament to the majority support of the people for the humanistic policies promoted by the Bolivarian Government. This electoral victory will also enable our Bolivarian Government to strengthen its solidarity with developing countries.

Defenders of peace, justice, freedom and solidarity in the world can continue to rely on the support of the Bolivarian revolution.

**The President** (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to Her Excellency Mrs. Tine Morch Smith, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Norway.

**Mrs. Smith** (Norway): Last week we reaffirmed our commitment to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). We agreed to accelerate our efforts. Developing countries themselves have the main responsibility for achieving the MDGs, and the international community has the responsibility to assist by means of development and debt relief where appropriate. Norway is and will continue to be a solid and reliable partner in development. We will keep our development aid at its present substantial level, including our significant support to United Nations funds and programmes.

This year in particular, we are heartened to see strong support for improving maternal health and reducing child mortality, the Goals on which we are lagging behind the most. Norway will work with the Secretary-General to ensure that his Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health is transformed into action on the ground.

The many successful and inspiring meetings last week also illustrate that the challenges facing the world, which are increasingly global in character, require inclusive global forums to address them. That means engaging in dialogue with others, often with those who have different views. The United Nations is not designed to comfort different leaders in their own convictions; it is the place to confront and surpass differences. It is therefore highly inappropriate when this rostrum is abused to promote extreme views or unfounded claims. The challenges before us are too great to allow us to be derailed by attempts to incite conflict. We must never forget that we are a global community by virtue of the shared risks that stand before us, the shared threats that challenge us and the shared values that bind us together.

Climate change threatens all our social and economic aspirations. Let me point to two important and dynamic processes that are among the most promising as we look for potential results in Cancún: limiting emissions from deforestation, and financing.

The Secretary-General's High-Level Advisory Group on Climate Change Financing, which the Prime Minister of Norway chairs together with the Prime Minister of Ethiopia, is working hard to identify sources that can enable us to raise the funds we committed to in Copenhagen. We need to define workable and acceptable sources, both private and public, and help pave the way for a new international climate agreement. We urge all Members to study the report we will receive this fall with an open mind and to build on this important work taking place at the initiative of the Secretary-General, as we prepare for Cancún and the period beyond.

Norway is leading support schemes for reducing emissions from deforestation. In Bali in 2007, Norway pledged to provide up to $500 million on an annual basis to halt deforestation. We are working with key partners such as Brazil, Indonesia and Guyana to develop concrete methods to do this in practice. Such measures are effective as a means of mitigation and provide strong leverage for new and additional financing for developing countries. They take effect immediately. I call on other countries to join in this great endeavour.

Ten years ago, we reaffirmed the connection between the three pillars of the United Nations: development, security and human rights. Human rights are an integral part of the United Nations vision and Charter, and should be mainstreamed in the work of the United Nations in all areas, as previously called for by this Assembly. Norway will continue to be active in the Human Rights Council and promote a human rights-based approach in United Nations development work. We will continue to work with partner countries from the North and South to this end, as we successfully did last week at the Trygve Lie Symposium on Fundamental Freedoms, focused on business and human rights.

This year also marks the 10-year anniversary of another major United Nations building block — Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security. Women's empowerment is a crucial factor not only in sustainable development, but also in sustainable peace. It is time to make good on the commitments made and follow through on promises that will enable women to take an active role in situations that are a matter of life and death, not only for them, but for their families, communities and even nations. When we do take stock in October, we should focus on action taken, and above all on action that needs to be taken.

Norway would like to echo the vision and hope voiced by President Obama in this Assembly that we may in the near future have an agreement that will lead to the entry of a new Member into the United Nations — an independent, sovereign State of Palestine.

The Ad Hoc Liaison Committee, which is chaired by Norway, has called for assistance to the Palestinian Authority in implementing the Programme for the Thirteenth Government for completing the task of building a Palestinian State, with regard to institution-building and the development of a sustainable Palestinian economy. The donors have been encouraged by recent reports that the implementation of the reform agenda accelerated significantly in the first half of 2010. The World Bank stated that if the Palestinian Authority were to maintain its current performance, it is well positioned for the establishment of a State at any point in the future.

It is crucial that this progress be mirrored by progress in the peace negotiations. Norway welcomes the relaunching earlier this month of direct bilateral negotiations to end the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. We regret that Israel's settlement moratorium was not extended. Norway reaffirms its strong commitment to the two-State solution and to supporting the negotiations by ensuring full compliance with Road Map obligations and maintaining their assistance to the Palestinian State-building effort.

Allow me to underline another process with enormous importance for regional peace, security and development. Supporting the parties in the full and timely implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement for the Sudan must be on our agenda. We cannot afford to end up in a situation where we all regret that we let peace slip in the Sudan.

For over 60 years, the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, has been the global intergovernmental framework for cooperation on joint challenges. Current trends in global

cooperation may point towards a looser, more fragmented structure of global governance. There is a fine line between such strategic alliances as complementary to traditional multilateralism, and as alternatives for global multilateralism with the direct or indirect representation of all States. This is why Norway attaches great importance to the ongoing discussion on how to best facilitate constructive cooperation between the Group of 20 and the United Nations.

United Nations reform has been a topic of many statements during this debate. In order to remain relevant, the United Nations must continuously reform and adapt to a changing environment and new challenges. As Member States, we have the responsibility to ensure that the Organization is equipped to respond to the task it is given. Therefore we must continue to push for United Nations reform, but with a view to improving and strengthening the United Nations. We must build on what is already in progress and seems to be yielding results. Delivering as one is showing progress at the country level. It now needs to be followed up at Headquarters. The establishment of UN Women is a system-wide coherence success story. We congratulate Ms. Bachelet and pledge to support her in delivering on the promises made to UN Women. Beyond new panels and processes, we now need to finalize work on proposals that are already on the table.

For Norway, commitment to the United Nations also means commitment to reform — to strive for a United Nations that is efficient and able to live up to the expectations that we, the Member States, place on it. We owe it to each other and to future generations to maintain and strengthen the United Nations as a unique, inclusive and global meeting place where we, the peoples of this world, come together to solve the global challenges of our time. This is our common responsibility.

**The President** (*spoke in French*): I now call on His Excellency Mr. Witold Sobków, chairman of the delegation of Poland.

**Mr. Sobków** (Poland): I wish you success during your presidency, Sir.

This year began with a tragic earthquake in Haiti that took the lives of more than 200,000 people, including United Nations staff and peacekeepers. Unfortunately, several months later, Pakistan was affected by floods with catastrophic effects. I would like to pay tribute to those women and men who lost their lives while working for the United Nations. I would also like to salute those who provided assistance to the victims. Those dramatic and very painful events highlighted the essential role that the United Nations is capable of playing in our lives and the extraordinary performance of an Organization that many seem to take for granted.

The universal character of the United Nations enables Member States to carry out activities and achieve agreed goals, regardless of their form of Government or culture. One cannot underestimate the contribution of the United Nations to peacekeeping and peacebuilding, its role in the promotion of the rule of law and human rights, or its contribution to the codification of international law.

Poland has always been a firm and reliable supporter of the United Nations. Effective multilateralism is an objective reflected in the policies of my Government and a guiding principle of the European Union (EU). We note both the heightened expectations and the criticism with respect to the United Nations and other international organizations. We are therefore raising the issue of reform, as we want the United Nations to be more efficient and better adapted to the new global environment. If it fails to meet the hopes and expectations of its Members, it will suffer marginalization, which might negatively affect multilateralism, as well as certainty and predictability in international relations.

Poland has been participating in the ongoing process of reflection on the accommodation of the United Nations to contemporary and foreseeable risks and challenges. In our opinion, the United Nations should improve its ability to cooperate with other institutions and organizations, particularly on a regional basis.

Poland supports efforts aimed at reforming the Security Council, an organ tasked with preserving peace and security. We need to take into account changes in the international system brought about after the end of the cold war and, at the same time, preserve the Council's cohesion and the feasibility of its decision-making process. We favour an additional non-permanent seat for the Eastern European group. We also find interesting and worth discussing the idea of EU representation. In general, we attach much

importance to the role of the EU in the United Nations system. That is why we would encourage non-EU Member States to support our efforts to ensure a proper place for the EU, an observer in the General Assembly, in the form of a resolution.

We attach great importance to the enhancement of the credibility of United Nations action in the field of democracy and human rights. Let me remind the Assembly of the successful meeting of the Community of Democracies in Krakow in July 2010. Poland is convinced that promoting universal respect for human rights throughout the world contributes to security and to social and economic progress.

In this respect, we applaud the establishment of the new consolidated gender entity of the United Nations, UN Women. We also believe that the review and reform of the Human Rights Council, of which we are a member, will strengthen the effectiveness of that body.

Our planet is exposed to an increasing number of existential threats. Experience shows that no country can solve the world's problems alone. A global response is therefore necessary to meeting global challenges. The United Nations has the capacity to justify and, in many instances, generate such a response. We expect excellence as a standard feature of the United Nations. In the final analysis, it is only with the consent and support of its Member States that the United Nations can deliver such excellence.

The latest world economic crisis demonstrated the need for globally coordinated economic and financial policies. These are currently being debated by the General Assembly's Second Committee and by the specialized agencies and United Nations-related organizations, such as the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. Poland expects the United Nations to be the key forum for multilateral debate on the issues pertaining to the crisis. We hope that the current crisis will not hinder United Nations Member States from achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Various political, economic, social and environmental problems are making States increasingly open to deepened cooperation. The complicated nature of new challenges demands sophisticated expertise and the integration of efforts. The United Nations safeguards both. Poland deems the United Nations to be an appropriate body to address the global issues of security and economy.

Peace and security are a fundamental issue. Our goal is a world without nuclear weapons and other arms of mass destruction; a world without terrorism; and a world capable of diffusing the threats of war and conflict. The United Nations should strengthen its involvement in meeting these objectives, anticipate and prevent conflicts, where possible, and develop the capacity to resolve them effectively once they break out.

The engagement of the United Nations in peacekeeping operations continues to produce visible and desirable effects, especially in its political and humanitarian dimensions. The experience we have gained from the increased engagement of recent years allows us to better understand its complexity and limitations and the challenges ahead. We believe that peacekeeping reform must continue. We support efforts that will bring new quality to peacekeeping, and in this regard we are committed to working towards achieving a wider consensus on its strategic aspects through a renewed partnership among all stakeholders.

This year will, we hope, be associated with major progress in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation. The success of the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) proved that a consensus is possible in this specific area of international cooperation. Efficient and practical implementation of the outcome of the NPT Review Conference remains a crucial task. We are convinced that the initiative launched recently by Australia and Japan, which involves the participation of Poland and 10 other countries, will contribute to this goal.

We perceive the NPT Review Conference, the New START treaty and the Nuclear Security Summit as significant steps forward, but regard the implementation of their decisions as a challenge.

Among issues related to nuclear disarmament, there is one that clearly stands out: the status of sub-strategic nuclear weapons, the reduction and elimination of which have not yet been covered by any legally binding international instrument. A world without nuclear weapons cannot be achieved if this challenge is not dealt with.

The Conference on Disarmament requires our special attention. We applaud the efforts of the Secretary-General, who convened a few days ago a special summit devoted to disarmament. Poland attaches considerable importance to that body and calls on all States to redouble their efforts to invigorate the Conference as a platform for multilateral disarmament and non-proliferation negotiations.

The impact of the economic and financial crises continues to affect most countries. The scarcity of high-quality jobs has become an issue of primary importance. Efforts are necessary to mobilize resources and provide opportunities for the benefit of the most vulnerable segments of society. Satisfying basic needs is once again at the forefront of global concerns.

The energy sector has become an area of major attention. Costs, security of supplies and reducing pollution are some of the sensitive issues. We face the challenge of making clean energy not only a social preference but also a market choice.

We need a shift in our thinking about the North-South dichotomy in order to allow the international community to move effectively forward. Allowing ourselves to be defined by our differences is a recipe for disaster. It is therefore important to focus on common elements and on the diversity of conditions and situations of States and to move away from a claims mentality.

The pace of market globalization exceeds the capacity of many Governments to ensure global economic stability. The growing interdependence of national economies increases the risk of the transmission of destabilizing shocks between countries. Economic activities within the United Nations are today scattered among many institutions. This often leads to overlapping powers between them. The role of the United Nations might be to coordinate the objectives and ensure coherence between the activities of major international organizations, to provide the necessary political leadership and long-term strategic policy framework, and to promote stable and sustainable development.

The High-level Plenary Meeting on the MDGs that ended on 22 September reconfirmed the importance of development cooperation and restated the commitment of the international community to attaining the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. The Meeting recognized the crucial role of the United Nations and the United Nations system in the field of development cooperation and commended their continued engagement and efforts.

Poland reiterates its support for implementing the MDGs. They constitute a primary point of reference for our programme of foreign assistance. We are also bound by the provisions of the Paris Declaration and the principle of aid effectiveness expressed therein. We strongly support coordination among all development partners.

Our official development assistance is oriented to serve the pro-growth policies of our partners. The mobilization of domestic resources, foreign direct investment and good economic policy are the basic drivers of development. Development policies should therefore be implemented in accordance with the principles of sustainable development and good governance. We welcome the progress on the MDGs, which is largely a result of continued efforts by developing countries. With regard to development assistance, it is extremely important that the principles of national ownership and leadership, as well as of mutual accountability, be strengthened and fully respected. Poland is actively involved in promoting global development cooperation.

We are committed to United Nations activities in the field of poverty reduction and the promotion of sustainable development. We note with satisfaction the positive results of the One United Nations reform and the increased efficiency of assistance provided by the United Nations. We support the activities conducted by the agencies of the United Nations agencies, in both the development and the humanitarian fields.

Poland expects an ambitious, forward-looking and action-oriented outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012. We look forward to attaining all the principal aims of the Conference, which should also bridge the trust gap between developed and developing countries evident in the climate change negotiations. Its outcome should be a focused political document, universal in nature, aimed at identifying concrete actions for all countries. It should be linked to the MDGs, taking into account the specific needs of developing countries. We call for a redoubling of the efforts to ensure that institutions involved in implementing the sustainable development agenda become more effective and efficient through

improved synergies and the provision of adequate resources.

Poland, which played host to the fourteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the fourth meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, will continue its efforts aimed at building international consensus on a comprehensive global post-2012 agreement. The role of the United Nations system is essential to maintaining an effective and efficient response to challenges posed by climate change.

In this regard, we would like to thank the Secretary-General for putting climate change at the top of the agenda of the United Nations system and for his numerous efforts to address the negative impact of such change. Climate change is a global challenge that can be addressed effectively only through a global effort within the UNFCCC framework.

Poland believes that the international community should continue to focus its attention on improved and enhanced implementation and monitoring of the three Rio Conventions, developing synergies among them, and on increasing the efficiency and coherence of the United Nations system. The consultative process inaugurated at the eleventh special session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on the reform of the international environmental governance system was an important contribution to the debate on environmental governance in the context of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. While being realistic and pragmatic, we should also be ambitious.

In conclusion, I wish to say a few words about solidarity. It is necessary to understand the relevance of international solidarity, working closely together, building new coalitions and bridging old divides to arrive at common objectives. Our common future is at stake. There is no guarantee of success, but surely we risk failure if we do not take action. New partnerships, building confidence in policy objectives, and positive engagement among partners are the necessary elements.

**The President** (*spoke in French*): We have heard the last speaker in the general debate.

Several representatives have requested to speak in exercise of the right of reply. May I remind members that statements in the exercise of the right of reply are limited to 10 minutes for the first intervention and to 5 minutes for the second intervention, and should be made by delegations from their seats.

**Mr. Desta** (Eritrea): I am taking the floor in exercise of the right of reply in connection with the statement made by His Excellency the Foreign Minister of Ethiopia this morning. Clearly, the Foreign Minister was trying to divert the attention of this body from his country's refusal to withdraw its troops from southern Eritrean territories and his Government's military misadventures in Somalia. Eritrea rejects all unfounded allegations, and I do not wish to dignify all of those made this morning by trying to address them at this late hour. In the interests of time, I will briefly respond to the main issue at hand.

Eritrea does not have problems with its neighbours, and if it has had in the past, it has been able to resolve them successfully, peacefully and legally, with the exception of its issues with Ethiopia. Ethiopia cannot hide behind the Security Council resolution mentioned by the Foreign Minister. Its attempt to find comfort in a resolution and to use Eritrea as a scapegoat for the problems of Somalia is misplaced criticism, and when no evidence was found to substantiate Eritrea's alleged support to the insurgents in Somalia, all eyes turned to Ethiopia. Even some members of the Transitional Federal Government admit that Ethiopia is using the Security Council resolution to pursue its own hidden agenda.

More and more voices are being raised to critically examine Ethiopia's self-serving policies and actions in Somalia. Some sources are certain that Ethiopia, with a standing army of about 800,000 — the largest in sub-Saharan Africa — receives about $2 billion worth of military support per annum, which is used to supply Somalia and in turn feeds insurgencies.

The Government in Addis must be held accountable for its destabilizing policies and actions, and it must be able to separate itself from the political affairs of Somalia. Unless it does so, the problems in Somalia and in the subregion will continue.

I wish to underscore the fact that Ethiopia has been the only constant factor throughout the political crisis in Somalia. Furthermore, that regime has been a cancer in the Horn of Africa. It is a very well-known fact that Ethiopia's invasion of Somalia in 2006

contributed to the rise of the Al-Shabaab group. Ethiopia's occupation of Somalia not only created the greatest humanitarian crisis in Africa, but also significantly contributed to the destabilization of the country. Approximately 1.5 million Somalis were displaced and over 20,000 lives lost through its genocidal acts, which deserve thorough investigation by the relevant international bodies.

The withdrawal of Ethiopian troops from Somalia was a face-saving measure for the Government in Ethiopia. Yet, refusing to learn from its military misadventures in Somalia, the Government of Ethiopia has again sent troops to central Somalia to continue its military and political interference in the affairs of that country. These acts should not be tolerated by any standard, and in particular not by the Security Council. The special treatment of Ethiopia is glaringly obvious and becoming a source of problems for the peace and stability of the subregion. Let all countries be subject to the same standards and set of rules, especially the Charter of the United Nations, which forbids military intervention unless it is authorized by the Security Council.

While I have the floor, let me clarify Eritrea's views on Somalia. Eritrea supports an inclusive peace process that allows all Somalis in the Government and outside the Government to come to the negotiating table. The peace process should be Somali-owned and Somali-driven, and Eritrea will continue to work constructively with all Somalis and the United Nations to achieve those objectives.

Let me conclude by pointing out that Ethiopia has become part of the problem in Somalia, and that must be stopped if a Somali-owned and Somali-driven inclusive peace process is to take root in Somalia. Let me also urge the international community to call on Ethiopia to end its occupation of sovereign Eritrean territories in order to ensure a stable and secure subregion in Africa.

**Mr. Abay** (Ethiopia): I am taking the floor in the exercise of the right of reply with regard to allegations directed at my Government by the Permanent Representative of Eritrea to the United Nations.

Eritrea has been and is destabilizing the Horn of Africa, and that is a fact. Its sponsorship of various terrorist groups in the region has a long history, and that is another well-known truth. Nonetheless, despite its destructive role in the Horn, the international community has failed to take tangible measures commensurate with its bellicose nature.

Late last year, the Security Council at last, after a long delay, imposed targeted sanctions on the Eritrean regime. Resolution 1907 (2009) was specifically aimed at trying to persuade Eritrea to mend its ways and to behave in a civilized and peaceful manner. Sanctions also underlined the message that international relations are governed by international law, which must be applied to its fullest extent. Eritrea cannot use its own excuses, real or imagined, to justify aggression against its neighbours, the blatant acts of destabilization it has been undertaking throughout the region, or the role it continues to play by supporting extremist elements in Somalia.

Although evidence has never been in short supply, addressing the root cause of problems has never been Eritrea's leaders' strong point. That is why, ever since the imposition of the sanctions, the regime in Asmara has been waging a feverish campaign — as it has been doing this afternoon — to deflect attention from itself and to appear to be the underdog. Part of that campaign are Eritrea's attempts at a make-believe fairy tale concerning the so-called occupied sovereign territories. I believe that my delegation responded adequately to this Eritrean mantra at yesterday's meeting (see A/65/PV.22), and I will therefore not test the indulgence of members by repeating the same again today.

What I would rather focus on this afternoon is the need to stay the course. The sanctions imposed by the Security Council in resolution 1907 (2009) have already had some impact. What is needed now is to firmly implement the sanctions policy, to exert more pressure on Eritrea and not to allow any backsliding on the issue just because of certain fictitious good behaviour that seems to have nearly seduced some quarters within the international community. The time is therefore long overdue for the Security Council to take resolute action and see to it that its decisions are complied with fully.

With regard to the Ethiopian-Eritrean issue raised by the representative of Eritrea this afternoon, let me reiterate that Ethiopia agrees with the constantly affirmed view of the Security Council that the primary responsibility for the resolution of the dispute between Ethiopia and Eritrea rests entirely upon themselves. Eritrea should realize that the solution on boundary or

any other differences can be found only by the two parties in a peaceful manner. Dialogue is the only way forward. Eritrea must understand that the option of violence is a complete non-starter.

**Mr. Sial** (Pakistan): I am exercising the right of reply in response to some incorrect assertions made by the Minister for External Affairs of India in his statement delivered today in the general debate (see A/65/PV.23).

The Indian Minister for External Affairs once again made the self-serving claim that Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India. Nothing could be further from reality and the truth. Jammu and Kashmir is an internationally recognized disputed territory that is still on the United Nations agenda. The United Nations has adopted more than a dozen resolutions calling for the settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute through a free and fair plebiscite under United Nations auspices. Numerous undertakings and statements made solemnly by the first Prime Minister of India are on record testifying to that fact.

In his statement, the Indian Minister for External Affairs reaffirmed the resolve of his Government and the more than 1 billion people of India to stand by the commitments made by their first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru. We welcome that reaffirmation. I would like to draw his attention to Prime Minister Nehru's commitments on Kashmir. On 2 January 1952, in Calcutta, Prime Minister Nehru said,

> "Kashmir is not the property of either India or Pakistan. It belongs to the Kashmiri people. When Kashmir acceded to India, we made it clear to the leaders of the Kashmiri people that we would ultimately abide by the verdict of their plebiscite. If they tell us to walk out, I would have no hesitation in quitting. We have taken the issue to the United Nations and given our word of honour for a peaceful solution. As a great nation, we cannot go back on it. We have left the question for final solution to the people of Kashmir and we are determined to abide by their decision."

It is amazing that a country that continues to violate several United Nations resolutions, including those of the Security Council, and fails to fulfil the commitments made by its leaders both to the international community and to the people of Indian-occupied Kashmir, not only has the audacity to claim democratic and pluralistic credentials, but also aspires to become a permanent member of the Security Council.

As regards human rights violations, Pakistan has only echoed what has been said and reported both by international and Indian human rights non-governmental organizations and media about the ongoing situation, resulting in brutal violations of the human rights of Kashmiris in Indian-occupied Kashmir. If it pains India to listen to the truth from Pakistan, I can quote a number of statements made by members of the international community as well as well-reputed international and Indian non-governmental organizations that have expressed similar serious concerns.

On 21 September 2010, the Secretary-General expressed regret for the loss of lives in Indian-occupied Kashmir and called for an immediate end to violence. Amnesty International, on 17 September, commenting on the increasing death toll in peaceful protests in Kashmir, called on the Indian authorities to take urgent steps to ensure respect for the right to life and to investigate killings of demonstrators by police. Human Rights Watch on the same day pronounced that Kashmiris had repeatedly been left without any justice. It called on the Indian authorities to abide by and implement the United Nations Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials.

Despite the use of brute force by Indian security forces, the recent widespread indigenous, peaceful and unarmed movement by the people in Indian-occupied Kashmir has once again proved the fact that Kashmiris despise the Indian occupation of their land and persist in their demand for the right to self-determination in accordance with Security Council resolutions.

India has a tendency to malign Pakistan on the issue of terrorism in order to conceal the State terrorism it uses to stifle Kashmiri voices demanding the right to self-determination. Pakistan's role in fighting terrorism has been well acknowledged by the international community.

Although we are a victim of terrorism, our resolve to fight that menace has not wavered. The security forces of Pakistan continue to shed their blood in the fight against terrorism in order to make this world safer. On the other hand, there are countries that continue to provide unlimited supplies of weapons and

money to those enemies of humanity who want to play havoc with our civilized societies.

We need no exhortations on that account from anyone. The Indian Government is well advised to take careful stock of its own policies and conduct, which include supporting terrorist elements in neighbouring countries that contribute to the problems facing South Asia. It was also India that conceived, created and nurtured the most lethal terrorist organization to introduce suicide bombings to our region. Yet, India still has the nerve to give lectures on morality to others.

The legitimate struggle of peoples for the right to self-determination cannot be equated with terrorism. The only real foreign hand involved in terrorist activities, resulting in dramatic and massive abuses of the human rights of the Kashmiri people, is that of Indian State terrorism let loose by occupation forces under draconian laws that provide the licence to kill and maim innocent Kashmiris. It is a known fact that more than 700,000 Indian security personnel are deployed in Indian-occupied Kashmir — the largest concentration of troops anywhere in the world. One wonders how such a huge concentration of armed forces, backed by the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, can give Kashmiris lessons on pluralism and democracy.

Pakistan remains committed to the peaceful resolution of all issues with India through a comprehensive and sustained dialogue. A peaceful and comprehensive resolution of the Kashmir dispute, in accordance with the wishes and aspirations of the Kashmiri people, will bring lasting peace not only between Pakistan and India, but to the South Asia region and beyond. Addressing the human rights concerns and ensuring the fundamental freedoms of the people of Indian-occupied Kashmir are the first step in that direction.

I hope that this well-meaning advice will find receptive ears in the Indian establishment.

**Mr. Mehdiyev** (Azerbaijan): I would like to exercise the right of reply to the statement made by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia on 21 September in the general debate of the General Assembly (see A/65/PV.6).

The statement of the Armenian Foreign Minister was yet another solid piece of evidence of that country's outrageous racist ideology, as well as of its annexationist intentions and unwillingness to settle the Armenian-Azerbaijan conflict in accordance with international law, by political means and in a constructive manner.

There can be no doubt that the issue that Yerevan purports to advocate denotes a culture of impunity and the promotion of dangerous ideas of superiority and expansionism, based on the open ethnic and religious prejudices prevailing in Armenia's policy and practice. The documentary evidence — and there is a mountain of it — proves that Armenia unleashed the war, attacked Azerbaijan, occupied its ancestral territories, including the Nagorny Karabakh region and several adjacent districts, carried out ethnic cleansing on a massive scale, and established a subordinate separatist entity on captured Azerbaijani territory along ethnic lines. The war led to the death and wounding of thousands of Azerbaijanis, the majority of them women, the elderly and children.

It is essential to note that what the Armenian side considers to be the exercise of the right to self-determination by the Armenian minority group in Azerbaijan has been unambiguously qualified by the Security Council and the General Assembly, as well as by other authoritative international organizations, as the illegal use of force against the sovereign and territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Consequently, the claims of Armenia — which resorted to the unlawful use of force to occupy the territory of Azerbaijan and committed the most serious international crimes, such as war crimes, crimes against humanity and even genocide — are contrary to and unsustainable under international law.

Thus, the destructive political agenda of Armenia, aimed at dismembering multi-ethnic societies and legalizing a product of aggression and an outrageous manifestation of ethnic differentiation, is fated never to be realized. Armenia must finally realize that, for the purposes of lasting peace and stability, there is no alternative but to put a prompt end to its illegal occupation of Azerbaijani territory, renounce its policy of ethnic hatred towards and territorial claims on neighbouring nations, and establish civilized relations with all regional countries.

**Mr. Kazhoyan** (Armenia): I apologize for asking for the floor, but it is really impossible to remain silent

after what has just been said by the representative of Azerbaijan.

The reference to the so-called military expansionism of Armenia made by the representative was totally misleading. Armenia has never started any aggression whatsoever. Moreover, it was Azerbaijan that started a full-scale war against the peaceful population of Nagorny Karabakh, forcing them to take up arms in order to protect their lives and homes. The current situation in the region is the consequence of Azerbaijan's own decision to use military force to suppress the legitimate, just and peaceful quest of the people of Nagorny Karabakh to exercise their right to self-determination, which is guaranteed by international law and the United Nations Charter.

Indeed, it is Azerbaijan that is in violation not only of the resolutions of the Security Council, which in fact urge the concerned parties to pursue negotiations within the framework of the Minsk Group of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, as well as direct contact between them. Azerbaijan's refusal to engage in direct negotiations with the elected representatives of the Nagorny Karabakh Republic and its hostile stance towards anything Armenian are the main impediments to the solution of the Nagorny Karabakh issue.

Meanwhile, what Azerbaijani representatives continuously fail to acknowledge is that Armenia has done exactly what the Security Council resolutions have called on it to do — to use its good offices with the leadership of Nagorny Karabakh to help find a peaceful solution to the conflict. A ceasefire has been in place since 1994, and now it is high time to find a comprehensive peaceful solution to the issue so that the people throughout our region can live in peace, prosperity and harmony.

**Mr. Kim Moonhwan** (Republic of Korea): I would like to exercise the right of reply in response to the statement delivered by the Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea this morning (see A/65/PV.23).

First, regarding the tragic sinking of the Republic of Korea's naval ship *Cheonan*, the findings of the joint investigation group on the sinking of the *Cheonan* naval vessel were the result of a thorough, objective and scientific investigation, with the participation of five nations: the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia and Sweden. Those findings were endorsed by the international community in the presidential statement adopted by the Security Council on 9 July 2010. In that regard, I would like to reiterate that the Security Council presidential statement stipulates that:

> "The Security Council underscores the importance of preventing further such attacks or hostilities against the Republic of Korea or in the region" (*S/PRST/2010/13, p. 2*).

The unprovoked attack constituted a grave violation of the Armistice Agreement and the principles of the United Nations Charter. In that context, allow me to clarify the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's proposal to send its inspection team. My delegation wants to emphasize that there already exists an established mechanism for military talks. General officer-level talks between the United Nations Command (UNC) and the North Korean People's Army (KPA) have been the designated forum for any Armistice-related issues, in accordance with the agreement reached between the UNC and the KPA in 1998. Since then, the UNC-KPA general officer-level talks have dealt with other cases of violation of the Armistice Agreement. In addition, my delegation is compelled to refute the arguments expressed by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in claiming that it is a nuclear-weapon State. In that regard, my delegation wishes to draw attention to the final document of the eighth NPT Review Conference adopted last May, which clearly reaffirmed that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea cannot have the status of a nuclear-weapon State in accordance with the NPT.

**The President** (*spoke in French*): Several delegations have asked to speak in exercise of their second right of reply. I remind them that statements in exercise of the second right of reply should be limited to five minutes.

**Mr. Desta** (Eritrea): I wish to remind the representative of Ethiopia once again that the key to resolving the problem between Eritrea and Ethiopia is the withdrawal of Ethiopian soldiers and institutions from Eritrean sovereign territories. With regard to the border dispute between Eritrea and Ethiopia, the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission has delimited and demarcated the border. What now remains is the withdrawal of Ethiopian soldiers from Eritrean sovereign territories. Ethiopia must respect the rule of

law. Ethiopia's dishonouring of its agreement is an irresponsible and shameful act. This issue cannot be swept under the carpet through diversionary tactics and the presentation of unfounded allegations. Ethiopia must face up to its treaty obligations, if it is interested in the security and stability of the region.

On the question of Somalia, I wish to bring to the attention of this body the fact that Ethiopia continues to be the only constant factor throughout the political crisis in Somalia. This is very revealing of Ethiopia's hidden agenda in Somalia. Ethiopia's continued meddling in the affairs of Somalia is dangerous to Somalis and to the rest of the region. The international community must revisit and assess the situation and seek a better solution that empowers the Somalis to take charge of their destiny through an inclusive political process.

**Mr. Manish Gupta** (India): I am taking the floor in exercise of the right of reply to the statement just made by the representative of Pakistan. Predictably, my distinguished colleague from Pakistan has once again addressed the issue of Jammu and Kashmir and made baseless and false allegations against India that are far from fact. Such unsolicited and untenable remarks will not and indeed cannot divert attention from the multiple problems Pakistan must tackle for the common good of its people and indeed of the entire region.

Rather than making unsolicited remarks about the internal affairs of others, Pakistan should seriously concentrate on addressing the enormous challenges confronting it — terrorism, extremism and sectarianism, to name a few — and on dismantling the terrorist infrastructure that exists on territories under its control. Violence in Jammu and Kashmir has been fuelled over the past decades by external forces that do not desire peace and progress in our region.

The Indian Constitution guarantees the fundamental rights of all of our people, including our brethren in Jammu and Kashmir, which is an integral part of India. Free and fair elections in Jammu and Kashmir have been regularly held, and people have regularly exercised their right to franchise in order to elect their representatives.

**Mr. Mehdiyev** (Azerbaijan): I apologize for having requested the floor again in exercise of my right of reply to the remarks made by the Armenian delegation. We proceed from the strong understanding that the United Nations should be resorted to by Member States in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Organization and not misused for the political advantage of those who gravely violate international law, advocate the culture of impunity and promote dangerous ideas of racial, ethnic and religious superiority. Armenia's stance proves that its thinking is far from United Nations vision on engaging in a sobre and efficient search for peace. We consider the provocative and irresponsible behaviour of Armenia an open challenge to the conflict settlement process and a serious threat to international and regional peace and security.

We expect that Member States will work to persuade Armenia to cease its destructive policies, respect the generally accepted norms and principles of international law and negotiate in good faith with a view to achieving a durable solution to the conflict.

**Mr. Pak Tok Hun** (Democratic People's Republic of Korea): It is indeed regrettable and heartbreaking that my delegation has had to respond to the South Korean delegation concerning their number one issue, namely, the so-called sinking of the South Korean ship *Cheonan*. South Korean delegates have once again brought to the attention of this body an issue on which not even the United Nations Security Council has prepared an appropriate judgement or conclusion.

My delegation would like once again to make its position clear, namely, that we, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, had nothing to do with the sinking of the ship *Cheonan*. Particular mention should be made of the paragraph of the Security Council's presidential statement, I quote,

> "The Security Council takes note of the responses from other relevant parties, including from the DPRK, which has stated that it had nothing to do with the incident." (*S/PRST/2010/13, para. 6*)

The South Korean delegate mentioned the so-called scientific investigations and the results of the investigation of that sinking incident. The conclusive evidence presented by South Korea offers nothing more than conclusive doubts, and the results of the investigation by the Joint Civilian-Military Investigation Group present a mosaic-like scenario that is not scientifically based and is unilateral and not objective. This is why the DPRK straightaway rejected the unilateral investigative results of South Korea and

proposed to dispatch its own inspection group from the National Defence Commission to the site of the sinking, in order to verify the investigation results objectively and scientifically.

However, South Korea has refused to receive our inspection group, instead insisting that the international community should only accept its unilateral investigation results. If the South Korean authorities have nothing to hide, then there is no reason for them not to accept our inspection group to verify their investigation results.

As long as the South Korean authorities refuse to accept our inspection group, suspicion will continue to grow in relation to this case. But it is not too late for them to make a decision to accept our inspection group.

South Korea mentioned that they would not recognize the nuclear status of my country. We do not ask South Korea, or any country, to recognize or accept our status as a nuclear State. As we have clarified on many occasions, our nuclear weapons are not a means for attacking or frightening others but a deterrent in self-defence to counter aggression and attacks from outside. The denuclearization of the Korean peninsula will surely come, if a super-Power abandons its hostile policy towards my country and proves that by its actions. We will make real efforts to denuclearize the peninsula in the context of building a world free of nuclear weapons and free of the United States nuclear policy towards the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in the future too, as we have done in the past.

**Mr. Abay** (Ethiopia): We have both — Ethiopia and Eritrea — expressed our views on issues that are real and on those that are not so real or true. We have been throwing accusations and allegations at each other for almost a decade, to no avail. For the purposes of saving time, it is my belief, with regard to Somalia, that it would be useful if the Members of the Assembly could refer to the records of the outcome of the mini-Summit on Somalia convened by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon last Thursday, calling on the spoilers of the peace process in Somalia to desist from their actions.

Sanctions were not imposed on Ethiopia. They were imposed on the spoilers — that is, Eritrea. Sanctions were not handed down on Ethiopia, not because Ethiopia has been the favourite child of the international community, but because that was the choice of the African Union (AU). It would be really surprising if the AU and the international community had got it all wrong and Eritrea had got it right.

With regard to demarcation, I do not have anything more to add, and, as I said earlier, the only way forward is through dialogue.

**Mr. Sial** (Pakistan): Repetition reflects a weakness of argument, so I will not indulge in that. My Indian colleague is trying to take help from the arguments that have been squarely rejected, by the people of Indian-occupied Kashmir as well as by the international community. Pakistan does not interfere in the internal affairs of other countries. Jammu and Kashmir is, however, not an internal Indian matter.

Being a principal stakeholder in the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, we retain the right to raise this issue in all international forums and will continue to extend moral, political and diplomatic support to the just struggle of the Kashmiri people to exercise their right to self-determination. The Indian reference to elections in Jammu and Kashmir that seek to justify its occupation has been rejected not only by the people of Kashmir but also by the Security Council. The International Commission of Jurists, in its report after visiting Jammu and Kashmir in 1995, concluded that the people of Jammu and Kashmir had acquired the right to self-determination at the time of the partition of India. That right has neither been exercised nor abandoned, and therefore remains capable of exercise.

The ongoing indigenous peaceful, unarmed, non-violent and widespread movement for azadi, that is, freedom in Indian-occupied Kashmir, has once again proved that, despite facing decades of repression and some of the worst forms of human rights violations at the hands of Indian security forces, Kashmiris refuse to accept any solution other than the exercise of their just right to self-determination.

Pakistan regrets the uncalled-for remarks on its internal matters by the Indian delegate. We are aware who the supporters and perpetrators of these situations are, who otherwise take cover behind democracy and stand on high moral ground. Pakistan is capable of frustrating, and determined to frustrate, all their nefarious designs in those areas. Indian interests would be better served, if that country would utilize its so-called ancient wisdom to deal with innumerable issues at home, while avoiding interference in others' internal matters. The Jammu and Kashmir issue should not be

used as a tool of State politics. It is about the destiny of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, and about sustainable peace in our region.

Pakistan remains committed to a peaceful resolution of all outstanding issues with India, including the core issue of Jammu and Kashmir, through a sustained and comprehensive dialogue process. That process must yield concrete results and move from conflict management to conflict resolution.

**Mr. Kazhoyan** (Armenia): I sincerely apologize to the Assembly and my colleagues for having to take the floor for a second time. The statement made earlier by the head of the Armenian delegation was intended to sincerely address the burning issues of the people of our region, regardless of their place of residence or the political status of their homeland. This should also be fully attributed to every single nationality, including Armenians, Russians, Jews, Greeks, Assyrians, Kurds, Yazidis, Arabs and Azeris, and representatives of every religion living today in the territory of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic. Unfortunately, I regret to state that whatever was mentioned a few minutes ago by the representative of Azerbaijan was politically motivated and destructive, and in no way serves the noble goals of the Assembly, which are aimed at uniting our nations.

**Mr. Manish Gupta** (India): Regrettably, the Pakistani representative has once again taken the floor. We reject all the untenable and unsolicited remarks from the delegate of Pakistan.

**The President** (*spoke in French*): We have heard the last speaker in exercise of the right of reply.

I will therefore now share with you my concluding remarks, which I have entitled "Let us move forward towards a genuine global partnership".

**Statement by the President**

The President (spoke in French): We have arrived at the end of our general debate of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly. I would like to thank all speakers for their contributions. I am pleased that virtually everyone has had an opportunity to speak and for the quality of the debate. I hope that everyone who spoke has been heard.

Now is the time to take stock so that we can make greater progress, together, on the issues of critical importance for our common well-being.

I have been struck by the convergence of concerns expressed not only from this rostrum but also during the many bilateral meetings that I had the honour to host on the sidelines of this debate. If our concerns are shared, why then have so many tragic situations lasted for so long? Have we really taken the time to speak to one another, to search for solutions and to achieve reconciliation? Or have we merely been content to repeat the same things year after year? Let us put aside electoral cycles and purely national interests, so that we can forge consensus-based solutions that will enable us to move forward. The need to consolidate the still fragile global economic situation, the need to improve the reduction of poverty and the need to redouble efforts for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals were emphasized in many statements.

In this regard, a strong and very welcome message was conveyed by the Summit on the Millennium Development Goals: we reaffirmed our determination to keep the promise made in the year 2000 and we have a plan of action. What we need now is for our words to be followed by actions. Too often in the past, those words have gone unheeded. We cannot afford to disappoint the expectations of the millions of men, women and children living in poverty. We will need to closely monitor the fulfilment of our commitments. The General Assembly must — and will — contribute towards this.

The importance of UN Women for gender equality and the empowerment of women was highlighted. The establishment of that entity, which combines resources and mandates for a greater impact, is an example that could be followed in other areas. The crucial role of the United Nations in promoting human rights and combating human trafficking was also recalled.

Many delegations spoke about issues of peace and security, the peaceful settlement of regional conflicts, migration and efforts to combat terrorism and organized crime. The importance of disarmament in the promotion of peace and development was highlighted. The essential role of United Nations peacekeeping operations was repeatedly acknowledged. We should never forget that peace and security are our primary calling.

Nevertheless, the international community still has much to do to ensure that the United Nations fulfils

its primary responsibility for the maintenance of peace and security. The situation in the Middle East, Sudan, the Balkans and too many other regions of the world remind us of this on a daily basis. Will we be brave enough to move beyond deadlock and oft-repeated positions of principle and be sincere in our efforts to begin the reconciliation that our citizens so desire?

There was also praise for the work of the United Nations and its specialized agencies in the wake of the natural disasters in Haiti and Pakistan.

Speaker after speaker dwelt on dangers connected with nature — including climate change, the loss of biodiversity and scarcity of resources — and reiterated the need for worldwide efforts to address those risks. The same appeal was made at our high-level meetings on biodiversity and the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy.

The issue of sustainable development was mentioned in this connection. During this session of the General Assembly, I intend to step up discussion of this subject, and particularly of the green economy, in order to contribute to preparing for the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012.

Time does not permit me to list every subject mentioned on this podium, but all of them are essential to the common good and all require a worldwide response. Many delegations raised the matter of global governance, the theme chosen for the general debate. The fact that the number of heads of State and Government in New York is higher than usual testifies to the considerable importance that most Members attach to reinforcing such governance. I am pleased that the theme of the debate was such a successful choice.

The Group of 20 (G-20) is an unavoidable reality, and many delegations have pointed out its importance. However, as one of the G-20 members indicated, there needs to be open and ongoing dialogue with the Member States of the General Assembly in order for the G-20 to retain its relevance and legitimacy. We need to find the ideal combination of legitimacy and effectiveness. We must improve the machinery of information, consultation and cooperation between the United Nations and other players connected with global governance.

As a first practical step, I intend to launch an informal debate with the Secretary-General and the G-20 host country to take place before and after the G-20 summits. There is also the possibility of an informal debate in the second half of my term to explore in a more general way paths towards a system of global governance that would be more representative, inclusive and open, and would encompass civil society and the private sector as important players in the system.

We believe in the value of the United Nations. Many leaders have said that the Organization is the centrepiece of the global system of governance. It is universal and enjoys a unique legitimacy. But the lack of leadership and the need for major reform are also topics of frequent comment.

While we agree on the importance of the tool that is the United Nations, are we making the best use of that tool? Are we doing what is needed to help us use it better? Are we ready to strengthen the Organization today? Are we not in the process of recreating the United Nations outside the United Nations by multiplying discussion forums and decision-making bodies? Would it not be better for us to act resolutely to adapt the Organization rapidly to current realities?

Essential reforms are under way, especially with regard to the revitalization of the General Assembly and the reform of the Security Council, but also regarding the review of the Human Rights Council and the Peacebuilding Commission. We must move those reforms and reviews forward. We must also reassert the value of the economic organizations of the United Nations and allow them fully to perform the functions for which they were created.

It is clearly up to you, the Member States, to make of the United Nations a strong tool that can play a central role in facing these global challenges and work for the common good.

Allow me to end this general debate on a more personal note. In following our debates over the past few days, I have been struck by the generosity and determination unanimously expressed in favour of achieving the Millennium Development Goals. This sends a strong message about the capacity of the international community to act in solidarity.

I have been impressed as well by the many statements to the effect that the world and our

Organization currently find themselves at a turning point. However, I have also asked myself if, in addition to making such statements, we are putting the same energy into ensuring the proper functioning of global governance and the fulfilment of our primary mandates, which are peace and security.

I sometimes have the feeling that we content ourselves with repeating worn-out sketches of ideas, looking for short-lived victories or simply accepting the status quo. To make true breakthroughs on the major projects related to global governance, the protection of human rights and the preservation of the planet, that is, to make progress on our grand plans to create a world of peace, well-being and friendship, we will need a great deal of creativity and a great deal of generosity.

Let us not fear our own courage.

I have just received another request for the exercise of the right to reply. I therefore give the floor to the representative of Viet Nam.

**Mr. Bui The Giang** (Viet Nam): Thank you, Mr. President, for allowing us to speak very briefly. And let me apologize to all the other representatives for requesting to speak at this late hour.

We want to speak in response to the statement made by Sweden about the so-called jailing and harassment of journalists in Viet Nam. We believe that no country is perfect and Viet Nam is no exception. Therefore, we have established and constantly improved the legal system of a State governed by laws after many decades of ravaging and destructive wars. At the same time, we are open to all comments as far as my country is concerned, provided that such comments are constructive and well-informed. We have engaged in dialogue with many interested countries, including, for example, the United States of America, Australia and Canada, to name a few, as well as the European Union.

In that context, we regret that Sweden has made uninformed, misinformed and ungrounded comments about the so-called jailing and harassment of journalists in some countries, including Viet Nam, which are contrary to the tradition of friendship between the two countries on the basis of mutual respect and respect for international law, and has allowed itself the right to judge the situation in other countries without any basis or grounds.

**The President** (*spoke in French*): I have no further requests for the exercise of the right of reply.

May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 8?

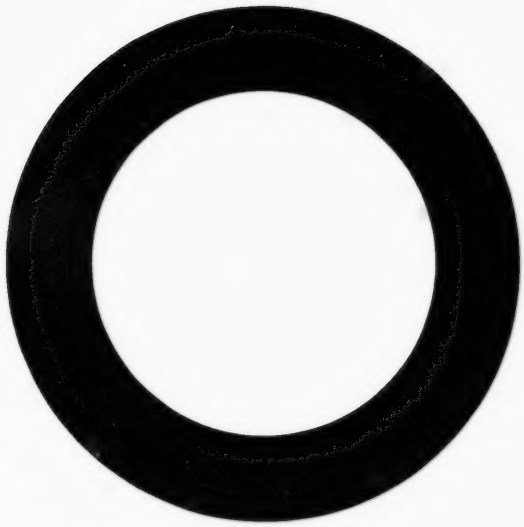
*It was so decided.*

**Programme of work**

**The President** (*spoke in French*): I would like to draw the attention of the General Assembly to document A/INF/65/3, which has been distributed to all delegations desk to desk. It contains the programme of work of the Assembly and the tentative schedule of plenary meetings for the period from October to December 2010. I would also like to inform members that the lists of speakers for items listed in document A/INF/65/3 are now open.

I should like to close this series of meetings by thanking all the representatives for their hard work.

*The meeting rose at 5.45 p.m.*



United Nations

A/65/PV.25

# General Assembly

Sixty-fifth session

*Official Records*

**25**th plenary meeting
Tuesday, 5 October 2010, 10 a.m.
New York

*President:* Mr. Deiss ..... (Switzerland)

*In the absence of the President, Mr. Ndong Mba (Equatorial Guinea), Vice-President, took the Chair.*

*The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.*

**Agenda item 108 (*continued*)**

**Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization (A/65/1)**

**The Acting President** (*spoke in Spanish*): Members will recall that the Secretary-General presented his annual report (A/65/1) to the General Assembly at its 11th plenary meeting, on 23 September 2010.

**Mr. Núñez Mosquera** (Cuba) (*spoke in Spanish*): We thank the Secretary-General for the presentation of his annual report (A/65/1). The report acknowledges the complex world situation, in particular with regard to the devastating effects of the global economic and financial crisis. As the Secretary-General points out, the measures taken to stimulate growth and global economic recovery have not always met the needs of the poor and the most vulnerable. On the contrary, despite promises, developed countries have resorted to the most shameless protectionism as part of their policies in response to the crisis, to the detriment of underdeveloped economies.

At the recent High-level Plenary Meeting on the Millennium Development Goals, it remained clearly apparent that the lack of financial resources continues to be the main reason for delays in meeting those modest objectives. The calls for new and additional resources to try to reach the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 were once again ignored by rich countries, which did not allow even a single mention in that regard in the outcome document of the High-level Meeting (resolution 65/1).

It has become clear not only that the majority will not be able to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, but also that other internationally agreed development goals will remain an illusion. It should be pointed out that all such commitments made within the framework of major United Nations conferences and summits are also part of what the report calls the concrete framework that serves as a guide for the Organization's development activities.

Introducing radical changes in the consumption and production patterns of the societies of the North and building a new international economic order are the only way to meet the goals and objectives to which we have committed. The creation of a new global financial architecture must be a priority in the Organization's deliberations.

We are pleased that the report acknowledges the work of the General Assembly working group on the world financial and economic crisis as an important initiative. Cuba hopes that that working group can continue its work to discuss in greater depth the topics on its agenda and to decide on them.

The report mentions the nine joint initiatives designed by the United Nations system to respond to the crisis. We underscore that all initiatives of that kind must be duly discussed with States before their

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implementation. We express similar concern about the creation of the High-level Advisory Group on Climate Change Financing and the High-level Panel on Global Sustainability, established by the Secretary-General without due consultation with the Secretariat and Member States. We trust that such situations will not recur.

The report proposes the development of low-carbon economies in developing countries. In that regard, we underscore that developed countries must shoulder their historic responsibilities, as well as the commitments made under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol, and meet the ambitious reduction commitments at the sixteenth Conference of the Parties to the Convention.

For their part, developing countries have the priority goal of achieving sustainable development. They need the support of the international community, in particular that of developed countries, in order to gain new and additional financial resources, capacity-building and technology transfer under preferential conditions.

Moreover, we are concerned about the assertion in the report that the so-called Copenhagen Accord "was an essential step forward in global efforts to address the climate challenge" (*see A/65/1, para. 108*). The Copenhagen Conference generated a crisis of confidence owing to the lack of transparency with which the negotiations were conducted, disregarding the very standards and procedures of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the United Nations. The Framework Convention is and must continue to be the only framework for international negotiations on climate change, which should continue along the two tracks agreed in Bali.

The sixteenth Conference of the Parties must achieve agreements on mitigation and adaptation under the Convention that enable developing countries substantially and predictably to address the increasing threats associated with climate change.

The main challenge before us is that of reforming the United Nations so that it serves the interests of all nations equally. We cannot allow the reform to end up turning our Organization into an instrument for the interests and whims of a few rich and powerful countries. We must revitalize the guiding role of the General Assembly, the only United Nations organ where there is no room for hegemony, where we all have the right to speak and vote and where the obsolete right to veto does not exist.

We cannot speak of true reform of the Organization without real reform of the Security Council. The intergovernmental negotiations on reforming the Council have still not produced the concrete results that we hoped for. We trust that real progress will be made during this session. We urgently need a truly balanced and representative Security Council that acts on behalf of all and within the mandate entrusted to it by the Charter.

Cuba welcomes the creation of UN Women, which was a historic step forward towards achieving gender equality and empowering all women of the world. We hope that the new gender entity will, in accordance with its mandate, develop mechanisms to follow up all the commitments made at the Beijing Conference. Furthermore, while we note the results enshrined in resolution 64/289, we reiterate that United Nations development assistance is not subject to unique models and we reaffirm the principle that it must be guided by national priorities and led by national Governments.

Cuba reaffirms the importance of international cooperation and genuine dialogue concerning human rights. We must eradicate forever political manipulation, selectivity and double standards with respect to human rights. We must not allow these evils to affect United Nations human rights mechanisms, including the Human Rights Council.

In his report, the Secretary-General refers to the upcoming review of the Human Rights Council, which we believe should be a single, transparent and inclusive process of an intergovernmental nature. All of us must work to preserve the positive aspects of the Council, including the Universal Periodic Review mechanism, which is the ideal space to consider the human rights situation in all countries under equal conditions.

Moreover, Cuba will give special attention to debates on human resources reform, because we must take a final decision at the current session on simplifying the contracting regime and harmonizing conditions of service. In this context, we will advocate for better geographic distribution in Secretariat staff, especially in entities such as the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, where

an imbalance in its staff composition plays a key role in the severe distortions of its activities.

It is also essential that the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination be more accountable for its activities and achieve greater transparency in the election and selection of the senior officers of the Organization. In this vein, the Joint Inspection Unit has posited several ideas that should be taken into account.

In the report, it is stated that the international community has made significant progress in the fields of disarmament and non-proliferation, especially in the nuclear context. Reality gives much greater cause for concern. There are 22,600 nuclear weapons worldwide, of which 7,560 are ready for immediate deployment. These are much more powerful than those that sowed death and destruction in the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

The prohibition and complete elimination of nuclear weapons remains an urgent pending task. While millions of people suffer the effects of the worst economic and financial crisis since the Great Depression, international military spending continues to increase at a dizzying pace. Currently, it totals $1,521 billion — a figure many times greater than international development aid.

Cuba reiterates its proposal that at least half of current military spending be devoted to responding to economic and social development needs through a fund managed by the United Nations. We also propose that a global action plan be agreed without delay on achieving complete elimination and prohibition of nuclear weapons within not more than 15 years.

The challenges facing us are very serious. More than ever, the world needs the United Nations and our united action. Cuba will continue to work tirelessly for a better world for all.

**Mr. Wenaweser** (Liechtenstein): We would like to thank the Secretary-General for his report on the work of the Organization (A/65/1). The past session of the General Assembly brought some important breakthroughs in the United Nations reform agenda. The creation of UN Women in particular was a major contribution to a more coherent and less duplicative Organization. The timely appointment of Ms. Bachelet at the head of the new entity should guarantee a smooth transition without major operative interruptions.

We also consider the reformed Taliban and Al-Qaida sanctions regime of the Security Council to be a big step in the right direction. The new Office of the Ombudsperson, headed by Ms. Kimberly Prost, will contribute to the legitimacy and effectiveness of the sanctions regime and the Council itself. The United Nations, as a whole and in its parts, needs these qualities urgently in order to secure its standing as the centre for global governance.

The choice of "global governance" as the theme of this year's general debate was received positively by Member States. We thus hope that it will remain the overarching topic of the entire session. An indispensable element of global governance based on the principle of sovereign equality is that any global governance system must have a set of clear applicable rules. We therefore see a close connection between the topics "rule of law" and "global governance" and would therefore welcome a thematic debate on the rule of law during this session of the Assembly.

The United Nations has the broadest legitimacy of all intergovernmental organizations based on its membership and the democratic structure of its main deliberative body, this Assembly. But legitimacy cannot be based solely on structural and institutional aspects. United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, as well as its peacekeeping and peacebuilding missions, are the face of the United Nations to the outside world and must strengthen the Organization's legitimacy as a whole on the basis of the daily work they deliver to States, individuals, the general public and civil society.

We continue to see a lot of potential in this field. Operational legitimacy is earned through transparent and efficient work and through independent accountability mechanisms. The work of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) is therefore very important. OIOS makes an essential contribution to raising awareness within and outside the United Nations of necessary management reforms and structural deficits in the organizational set-up of the United Nations.

We are concerned that, after a period of responsiveness to the recommendations of the Office, the eagerness to implement them is in overall decline. We believe that the United Nations has a particular

responsibility to urgently address all allegations of sexual misconduct and misappropriation of funds. Past experience has shown how detrimental system breakdowns in the area of management oversight can be. We hope that the Assembly will engage in an open and productive discussion of these issues.

The agenda of the current session provides us with the opportunity to streamline and optimize processes in the areas of peacebuilding and human rights. We hope that the review of the Peacebuilding Commission will strengthen the Commission's preventive dimension and sharpen its focus to address the root causes of conflicts. We believe that substantial improvement in the coherence of the different human rights bodies is possible and, indeed, necessary. The relationship between the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly — that is, its Third and Fifth Committees — has been unclear and inefficient in the past. We hope that we, as Member States, will take the opportunity of the review to address this relationship and the issue of providing a regular and steady mechanism to fund decisions by the Council, where necessary. A successful review process would strengthen the governance of the United Nations in this field. I am personally grateful for the trust that the President of the Assembly has placed in Ambassador Loulichki of Morocco and myself to assist in leading this Assembly on the matter of review of the Council.

In the Security Council, the United Nations has the most powerful tool in international law at hand. Yet it is perceived as lacking political legitimacy due to its unrepresentative composition. Political progress on this issue has been deadlocked for a long time, and States need to be aware of the risk of an institutional crisis of this Organization as whole if this situation prevails for much longer. We continue to stand ready to make our contribution to a serious enlargement discussion.

In parallel, we will vigorously pursue the agenda of the group of five small countries on the working methods of the Council, where progress has been less than satisfactory. In a letter sent to the Chairman of the Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions of the Security Council, we have taken note of the updated presidential note of the Council (S/2010/507), which has the merit of providing an overview of the current state of play. At the same time, it offers very little in the way of effective measures to improve the accountability, access and inclusion of non-members of the Council — the areas where we believe the most work remains to be done. We will continue to pursue these goals, including in this Assembly.

**Mr. Kodama** (Japan): At the outset, allow me to extend my deep appreciation to His Excellency Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for his remarkable devotion in guiding the diverse activities of the United Nations and for his report on the work of the Organization (A/65/1).

The most urgent challenge facing the United Nations at this time is the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). We are concerned about the impact of the financial and economic crisis on the efforts of developing countries to attain the MDGs. Now that this year's High-level Plenary Meeting has been successfully concluded, we must follow through on all the commitments and promises, without losing any time, in order to accelerate progress and achieve the MDGs by the target year of 2015. Japan, for its part, will deliver on the promises made by Prime Minister Kan, focusing on the two crucial sectors of health and education.

Efforts for the reduction of poverty alone will not translate into the achievement of the MDGs. A significant proportion of the bottom billion of the poor are caught up in conflict or barely surviving in tenuous post-conflict situations. It is often said that as many as 50 per cent of post-conflict countries relapse into hostilities within 10 years after the conflicts end.

In order to break the vicious circle of conflict and poverty, it is essential to address the two factors comprehensively. Once a conflict has been resolved, there should be quick delivery of a peace dividend, which can be discerned by the people in the form of tangible improvements in their daily lives and which is supported by urgent measures to enhance social and economic stability.

In this context, Japan appreciates the activities undertaken by the Peacebuilding Commission to promote such an integrated strategy and to fill some of the most conspicuous gaps. During its presidency of the Security Council this year, Japan hosted an open debate of the Council on post-conflict peacebuilding (see S/PV.6299). We will continue to endeavour to promote this seamless approach to peacebuilding, taking into consideration the perspective of human security.

The concept of human security represents a human-centred and integrated strategy aiming at actualizing freedom from fear and want for every individual. It is also a bottom-up approach, beginning with the protection and empowerment of the individual and the community.

In this regard, I welcome with appreciation the adoption of resolution 64/291, entitled "Follow-up to paragraph 143 on human security of the 2005 World Summit Outcome" in July of this year. The adoption of this resolution was a crucial milestone in the efforts to materialize the commitments of the 2005 World Summit Outcome (resolution 60/1) and to integrate the human security approach into United Nations activities. We commend the assistance rendered by the Friends of Human Security and look forward to continuing the discussion on this concept during the next session.

Gender equality and the empowerment of women now play a central role throughout the work of the United Nations. We welcome the establishment of UN Women, which will lead to the strengthening of the United Nations commitment to gender mainstreaming. Japan is committed to contributing actively to help to ensure that all activities related to gender in the United Nations will operate collaboratively in the most effective and efficient manner possible. Moreover, we intend to utilize this momentum to renew our commitment to furthering the advancement of gender equality and women's empowerment both in Japan and in the wider international community.

Peacekeeping remains the core activity of the United Nations. Japan will continue to participate actively in United Nations peacekeeping operations and disaster relief operations, as we have done in the case of the earthquake in Haiti and the floods in Pakistan.

At the same time, United Nations peacekeeping now faces unprecedented challenges in terms of both the capacity of Member States and the complexity of mission mandates. Therefore, all the stakeholders responsible for these activities, such as the General Assembly, the Security Council, Member States and the Secretariat, must cooperate proactively to formulate improvement measures that will ensure that peacekeeping operations are assigned clear and achievable mandates and managed effectively and efficiently, with adequate resources.

We welcome, as measures to advance global peace and security, the recent positive developments in the area of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, including the successful outcome of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Assuming its moral responsibility as the only country that has ever suffered the tragic consequences of atomic bombings, Japan is determined to exert every effort to achieve a world without nuclear weapons. To that end, Japan will submit a draft resolution during this session outlining concrete measures towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

I also take this opportunity to thank the Secretary-General once again for making his visit to Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August to attend the sixty-fifth Peace Memorial Ceremony — the first United Nations Secretary-General to do so — and for demonstrating his earnest resolve to realize a world without nuclear weapons.

Another major challenge confronting humankind at this juncture is climate change. Aiming at the final objective of adopting a new, comprehensive, legally binding document, Japan will continue to coordinate with other States and the United Nations to lead international negotiations for the success of the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Cancún, Mexico. We will also steadily support those developing countries that are making efforts to reduce emissions and are vulnerable to the negative impacts of climate change through various channels, including partnership between the public and private sectors.

Japan will host the Tenth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in Nagoya this month, and believes that every effort must be made to come to agreement on commencing new actions to halt the rapidly progressing loss of biodiversity. We are determined to play an important role in resolving this issue.

The role and functions of the Human Rights Council are to be carefully reviewed by the close of the year 2011. The Council thus stands now at an especially important juncture. Japan is fully committed to taking part in the discussions in various forums, such as the General Assembly, the Third Committee and the Human Rights Council, to make further

contributions to enhancing the promotion and protection of human rights.

Reform of the United Nations cannot be considered complete without meaningful Security Council reform. Japan recognizes the solid progress made in the intergovernmental negotiations during the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly, and looks forward to international negotiations based on the second revision of the negotiation text in the current session, as mandated by General Assembly decision 63/568.

It is Japan's view that the Security Council must be reformed through the expansion of both the permanent and non-permanent memberships, so that the Council will reflect the realities of the geopolitical configuration of the world in the twenty-first century. In that regard, we are pleased to note that the President of this General Assembly is clearly focused on the need for early reform of the Security Council, and we count on his steady leadership to guide us to a concrete outcome during this session.

Japan wishes to reaffirm the importance of transparent, accountable and efficient management of the United Nations. The determined efforts of the Secretary-General to work towards a more efficient and responsive Secretariat have our full and enthusiastic support. We are all well aware that the current state of the world economy negatively impacts the financial situations of Member States. In that light, it is clear that the recent trend in United Nations fiscal management characterized by continuous expansion of the Organization's regular and peacekeeping budgets can no longer be sustained. The Secretariat must be streamlined for greater effectiveness and efficiency and in order to facilitate the fulfilment of its mandates within the available financial resources of Member States. We look forward to carefully studying the proposal to be made by the Secretary-General related to human resource management with a view to establishing a robust and lean Organization.

From that point of view, the Secretariat should make a concerted effort to rationalize expenditures and develop strategies for implementing mandated activities at lower cost. To the extent possible, new requirements should be met through the redeployment of existing resources. Rigorous financial discipline must be exercised in the implementation of the 2010-2011 programme and peacekeeping budgets.

I conclude my remarks today by reiterating Japan's determined commitment to continuing to work towards a more efficient United Nations.

**Mr. Wang Min** (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): The Chinese delegation welcomes the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization (A/65/1). Currently, the international security situation is generally stable, but various global threats and challenges are prominent. The profound effects of the international financial crisis have gradually become clear amid various growing uncertainties.

Faced by diverse threats and challenges over the past year, the United Nations has actively engaged in multilateral cooperation and played an important role in implementing the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), carrying out preventive diplomacy, deploying international peacekeeping operations, implementing post-conflict peacebuilding, responding to climate change, fighting terrorism and protecting human rights. We take this opportunity to thank Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for his hard work and good efforts over the past year.

The High-level Plenary Meeting on the Millennium Development Goals injected new vigour into the international development agenda. The next five years will be critical to achieving the MDGs. The United Nations should prioritize the timely achievement of the MDGs and establish an MDG assessment mechanism as soon as possible. It must, with a greater sense of urgency and responsibility, intensify efforts to ensure that the task will not be interrupted or delayed. It must encourage the developed countries to honour their commitments effectively and to assume the primary responsibility for assisting developing countries and providing them with long-term, stable and predictable financial support. It should focus on helping Africa to develop itself and eliminate poverty, and it should promote and intensify support for the least developed countries.

At the High-level Plenary Meeting on the Millennium Development Goals (see A/65/PV.9), Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao declared that China will continue to promote development to improve the lives of people in developing countries. It will donate $14 million to the Global Fund to fight HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria; further reduce the debt burden of the least developed countries; deepen financial cooperation with developing countries;

continue to provide substantial support in the form of concessional loans and preferential export buyer's credits; and explore and develop financial and economic relations and strengthen agricultural cooperation with developing countries and help them to develop their human resources. China will continue to support United Nations efforts to promote the development agenda and to make a greater contribution towards the early achievement of the Millennium Development Goals to the benefit of humankind.

Climate change concerns the common interests of the entire world and the development interests and well-being of the peoples of developing countries. China is the most populous developing country in the world and still faces many development challenges. However, on the basis of the long-term interests of the Chinese nation and all humankind, the Chinese Government attaches great importance to the issue of climate change.

Currently, the twelfth session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the fourteenth session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol are being held in Tianjin, China. This is the last formal negotiating conference before Cancun and the first time that China has hosted a formal negotiating conference on climate change within the United Nations framework. In order to promote the successful outcome of the Cancun conference, China believes that it is necessary to uphold, first, the basic framework of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Kyoto Protocol and the decisions of the Bali Road Map; secondly, the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities; and thirdly, the principle of sustainable development. We must give full consideration to economic development, the eradication of poverty and climate protection; achieve development while responding successfully to climate change; and ensure respect for the developing countries' right to development.

Global governance is the main issue facing the world's countries in their common efforts to respond to the various new threats and challenges. Global governance should focus on the achievement of comprehensive security, common development and human rights protection. It should underpin the principles of equity and justice. All countries — be they big or small, strong or weak, poor or rich — have the right to participate in the process of governance on an equal footing. It is necessary to follow the rule of law, proceed on the basis of norms, and uphold the principles and purposes of the United Nations Charter.

Global governance should advocate the principle of democracy and a spirit of inclusiveness; promote negotiation, cooperation and the peaceful settlement of international disputes; and strive for mutual benefits and win-win situations. Global governance should establish effective multilateral mechanisms, further multilateralism, and ensure fairness and efficiency.

As the most universal, representative and authoritative intergovernmental international organization, the United Nations is the most important arena for the practice of multilateralism. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has said that the United Nations remains the indispensable global institution for the twenty-first century.

China supports the United Nations in carrying out necessary and rational reforms so as to better perform the duties entrusted to it under its Charter. United Nations reform should be multidimensional and multisectoral. It is particularly necessary to focus on increasing development input in areas of concern to developing countries, to ensure that development resources strengthen development institutions, and to promote the timely achievement of the Millennium Development Goals so as to benefit developing countries in general.

**Mr. Kleib** (Indonesia): Indonesia welcomes the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization (A/65/1). We support the efforts of the Secretary-General to discharge his mandate in full and on time.

The review of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) has just been concluded. Our respective leaders vividly described the progress made so far. They also laid down measures to bridge the gaps. We, the community of nations, must therefore re-energize our determination to achieve the MDGs by 2015.

Key to that achievement are multilayered partnerships and a comprehensive approach. We must also recall that the 2005 World Summit stressed the three robust pillars of the United Nations: human rights, peace and security, and development and economic advancement. The three issues are closely

interlinked; one cannot survive without the other two. That trinity of purpose must be kept.

Let me start with the first pillar: human rights and its related subjects.

The monitoring, protection and promotion of human rights are among the most important responsibilities of the United Nations. The global economic and food crises have had a devastating impact on the promotion of human rights. That demonstrates the interlinkage of the three pillars, as I stipulated earlier. The United Nations must continue in its efforts to help Member States to integrate human rights into their development efforts.

Our experience reveals that efforts to implement human rights will fail to bear fruit if there is no enabling environment. Therefore, it is extremely crucial that we establish good governance, strengthen the rule of law and reform key democratic institutions. Indonesia embraces democracy, Islam and modernization in the same breath. Surely, the ultimate beneficiary of that effort is not Governments, but our respective societies.

The review of the Human Rights Council in 2011 will give us ample opportunity to further strengthen that body. It is pertinent to note that, for the first time, the United Nations body dealing with human rights truly represents the diversity of the global community. That was not the case with its predecessor.

Moreover, Indonesia welcomes the creation of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and the appointment of Under-Secretary-General Michelle Bachelet as its first Executive Director. The key to empowering women is to give them better opportunities and access to health and education facilities so that they become the principal agents of change and progress.

The past few years have been marked by successive massive natural disasters. The capacity of the United Nations to deliver international humanitarian assistance must therefore be strengthened.

Turning to peace and security, Indonesia faithfully remains loyal to the ideals set forth in our 1945 Constitution. We are duty-bound to help to maintain a world order based on independence, abiding peace and social justice. There is no better way to do so than to send our men and women to serve that noble objective under the United Nations peacekeeping umbrella. We strongly support the participation of more female peacekeepers and the greater participation of women in peacebuilding. We recognize the difficulties and complexities of peacekeeping. The New Horizon process will provide for better and stronger peacekeeping wherever it may be needed in the future.

The progress that has been made in the efforts to combat terrorism, including the establishment of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, should not make us complacent. We must not let our guard down against that global menace. Thus, the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy merits our united support.

The 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons was truly historic, yet much remains to be done. We are disappointed, however, that the Conference on Disarmament has remained stalled, and we look forward to its resumption of negotiations on the main substantive issues.

On an issue related to regional peace and that is dear to us — the Palestinian question — we strongly support the recent resumption of direct negotiations between Palestine and Israel. Regrettably, the promising talks are now being jeopardized by Israel's decision not to extend the moratorium on the building of settlements in the occupied territory. The United Nations, in the framework of the Quartet, as well as other members of the international community, must recognize that serious development and take remedial actions. Indonesia, for its part, will continue to work with other members of the international community to assist the fate of Palestine.

Regarding the last pillar, the report makes cautious prognoses, with particular reference to the beginnings of a global economic recovery following the global experiences of the past few years. Indonesia shares the view that the chances of economic recovery are high if the need for strong commitment, leadership and political will on the part of Member States is fulfilled.

Moreover, climate change remains a major threat to equitable and sustainable development. Indonesia looks forward to the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Mexico,

and urges Member States to work towards a consensus agreement that would address climate change effectively on the basis of the Copenhagen Accord and the progress made in the two working groups for the fifteenth Conference.

I will conclude with a few remarks on the Organization itself. Indonesia firmly believes that confronting today's massive challenges requires multilateral action with the United Nations at its centre. No single country, big or small, developed or developing, is equipped to meet those challenges on its own. Working together is therefore in the interests of all. The United Nations must continue to enhance cooperation with vital regional organizations, including the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. The Organization must also pursue its reform agenda to the fullest so as to ensure that its organs function at an optimal level. The General Assembly must be revitalized and the Security Council restructured to reflect current realities. Indonesia, for its part, remains fully committed to playing its role and cooperating in the work of the United Nations as the platform and hub of a renewed global partnership.

**Mrs. Aitimova** (Kazakhstan): First, the delegation of Kazakhstan would like to thank the Secretary-General for presenting his comprehensive report on the work of the Organization (A/65/1). In our opinion, it is a good reflection of every aspect of the Organization's hard work.

Over the past year, the world has moved from a global economic depression to the first manifestations of a global recovery. The Secretary-General is quite right when he says that "the recovery is fragile and uneven, and there is no guarantee that a relapse will not occur" (*A/65/1, para. 1*). Unemployment remains unacceptably high and vulnerable employment continues to rise. Economic volatility, eruptions of conflict, natural disasters, challenges to food security and strains on natural resources are unlikely to disappear. In this regard, Kazakhstan considers that the major responsibility for making substantial efforts to stimulate growth and development still lies with the Governments of Member States.

We are happy that there are grounds for a new optimism as we observe several important elements that will help guide the United Nations through these uncertain times. The Organization has a concrete framework to guide its action: the Millennium Declaration (resolution 55/2) and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). It has significant resources and knowledge that can help it address the current challenges, as well as increasingly robust partnerships with business, civil society and academia that can help improve its responses. But these measures can be taken only if the United Nations is able to mobilize the collective global political leadership and will.

As was indicated in the outcome document of the recent summit on the MDGs (resolution 65/1), over the next five years the Organization and its Member States must focus on accelerating progress through further measures. These include using innovative financing and investments in order to support the provision of global public goods, dedicating resources to the promotion of peace and security, and mobilizing to meet humanitarian and human rights needs around the world.

Let me focus on gender issues. No one would argue that, without the full engagement of women, the international system cannot meet the demands made on it. This year, which marks the fifteenth anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the tenth year of the global effort towards the Millennium Development Goals, the message to Member States and the Organization is clear: gender equality and women's empowerment are indispensable goals that the United Nations must champion for the benefit of all.

In this regard, we recall that on 2 July the Assembly endorsed the Secretary-General's proposal with its unanimous adoption of the landmark resolution 64/289 on system-wide coherence, which merged the four areas of the United Nations system dealing with women's issues into one composite, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, to be known as UN Women. Kazakhstan welcomes the recent appointment of an Under-Secretary-General to head the new body and the establishment of an Executive Board to provide intergovernmental support for and supervision of its operations.

We consider these developments to be among the most remarkable achievements of United Nations reform in the past year. In 2010, the Secretary-General has encouraged the United Nations to lend its full support to programmes that empower women and

protect them from discriminatory practices and violence. And, of course, the leadership of Member States is essential.

Over the past decade, the international community has made considerable progress towards reducing poverty, promoting sustainable development, securing peace and stability, and promoting women's empowerment. As the Organization and its Member States look to the next decade, they should be even more ambitious. And we share the optimism expressed by the Secretary-General in his report. Indeed, it is only by working together that we can strengthen the Organization so that it can be a driving force for multilateral action and fulfil the commitments made in September.

Five years from the target date of 2015 agreed for achieving the MDGs, success is still within reach but not guaranteed. The Organization and its Member States have made a great push forward, yet progress is uneven, gaps are wide and new challenges have yet to be met. The intensified efforts of every Member country are needed urgently in order for us to accelerate our pace towards achieving the Goals. This Assembly has a mandate to facilitate the acceleration of progress towards the MDGs. Kazakhstan is ready to contribute actively to this process and to set an example that can prove that the Millennium Goals are achievable.

The year 2010 is an important one for meeting the promises that the United Nations and the international community have made to those most in need around the world. By identifying and embracing the MDGs, Member States have put human development at centre stage and resolved to spare no effort to transform our world into a safer and more equitable, sustainable and prosperous place.

We are proud that this year, for the first time, the world community celebrated 29 August as the International Day against Nuclear Tests, initiated by President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan. Unanimous support for resolution 64/35 effectively reaffirmed the international community's commitment to the process of reducing the nuclear threat. I take this opportunity to once again thank Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, who started his visit to my country last April with a tour of the former Semipalatinsk nuclear test site. We remember that, standing on the former ground zero, he urged the international community to redouble its efforts to achieve a world free from nuclear threats.

We are following a number of important changes initiated by the Secretary-General in human resources policy, budget planning and the accountability framework, with a view to strengthening the Organization. Important progress has also been made on system-wide coherence and the further strengthening of the Organization's cooperation with regional organizations. We also take note of efforts made by the Secretary-General, as he continues to implement his human resources reform agenda, including by reducing the various types of employment contracts, harmonizing conditions of service between staff in the field and those at Headquarters, and launching a new talent management system to modernize recruitment, performance management and staff learning and development.

In conclusion, I would like to reaffirm that Kazakhstan supports the ongoing efforts of the United Nations Secretariat aimed at creating a stronger United Nations and at forging strong working relationships with a variety of stakeholders, including regional organizations and civil society. For that reason, outreach and the building of partnerships are important elements of the Organization's activity.

**Mr. Tommo Monthe** (Cameroon) (*spoke in French*): First of all, I would like to reiterate to the President of the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session, Mr. Joseph Deiss, the sincere congratulations and support that President Paul Biya conveyed to him on behalf of Cameroon from this rostrum on his election as President. The same applies to his predecessor, Mr. Ali Abdussalam Treki of Libya, as well as to the Secretary-General of the Organization, Mr. Ban Ki-moon.

Once again, it is a pleasure for me to commend the Secretary-General for the quality of his report on the activity of the Organization, published as document A/65/1 and submitted under agenda item 108 (see A/65/251). The report provides us with supplementary information about the vision and the expectations of the United Nations, as well as the role of Member States, so that the international community can meet the challenges that continue to affect us, namely, a global economy that shows the signs of a recovery that is still fragile and unequal, unemployment that is still high, ongoing conflicts in some areas of the world,

natural disasters, problems of food security, ongoing pressure on natural resources, the impact of climate change, and so on.

In that regard, first and foremost as regards development issues, my delegation agrees with the Secretary-General that the Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) (see resolution 55/2), if they are indeed implemented, will guide the work of the United Nations, if there is more political will from the Member States. The High-level Plenary Meeting, which took place here from 20 to 22 September and where my country was represented at the highest level, is a good illustration of that fact. Indeed, that meeting provided the United Nations and its Members with the opportunity to reaffirm their commitment to speed up the achievement of the MDGs by 2015.

For its part, the vision of Cameroon on the MDGs, as presented on that occasion by the President of the Republic, His Excellency Mr. Paul Biya, focuses on three main factors, namely the implementation of Goal 8 on creating a global partnership for development, access to energy and job creation.

Cameroon is indeed convinced that the complementarity between the MDGs should not cause us to lose sight of the fact that there is one among them that conditions the implementation of all the others, namely, Goal 8, because efforts to mobilize resources for development require the establishment of a fairer financial and economic system, a comprehensive treatment of the debt issue and a flow of official development assistance that is stable, predictable and effective, as well as access to essential medications.

The second key factor for the implementation of MDGs is access to energy, because that facilitates an increase in both agricultural production and water supply, as well as the blossoming of activities that generate income.

The third important factor is to solve the crisis in employment, in particular the employment of youth, who represent the main part of our population. Cameroon welcomes the results that the High-level Plenary Meeting achieved on the MDGs, as long as the international community implements the commitments set forth in the outcome document.

Indeed, regarding official development assistance, the heads of State and Government undertook to give great attention to respecting all commitments, including the commitment under which many countries by 2015 have committed to allocate 0.7 per cent of the gross domestic product to official development assistance and in 2010 to achieve the interim objective of 0.5 per cent. They have also promised to study the possibility of using innovative financing mechanisms, such as taxing financial transactions.

As regards international trade, the heads of State and Government affirmed their support for a universal multilateral trade system, rejecting protectionism and subsidies for agricultural product exports. They also reaffirmed that States have the right to fully use the provisions of the World Trade Organization agreement on trade regarding universal access to medication.

Regarding the issue of the debt, the heads of State and Government said that they wanted to facilitate its financing and alleviation and that they planned to set up improved structures for restructuring sovereign debt. If those commitments are kept within the deadlines set, they would most certainly support and strengthen the efforts that have already been undertaken by each of our countries.

The Cameroon Government itself has already undertaken to implement a strategy document for growth and employment that focuses on the development of the productive sectors and infrastructure, without which it would be impossible to see an improvement in living conditions for people. Other efforts have also been undertaken, including pursuit of fiscal reforms to act as an incentive and improvement of the business climate, in order to have greater mobilization of domestic savings and to attract more foreign direct investment and increase the absorption capacity of external debt.

Regarding Africa's particular needs, in paragraph 35 of the report, the Secretary-General rightly underscores that,

> "Africa's people need neither pity nor charity; they need the tools to create jobs and generate incomes. Developed countries should make good on promises made repeatedly at summit meetings of the Group of Eight and the Group of 20, and at the United Nations, to double aid to Africa." (*A/65/1, para. 35*)

Of course, we welcome the role played by the Africa Steering Group set up by the Secretary-General, which has laid out the way forward for the international community in terms of helping Africa achieve the MDGs in areas of strategic interest, such as health, education, agriculture, infrastructure and trade. The impact of this will, nonetheless, be limited, if the main donors of official development assistance do not respect their commitments.

Here, the African Union quite rightly notes that, while Africa has made remarkable progress in achieving the MDGs, the pace and quality of the achievements allows us to be only somewhat pleased, at best, with the results.

Allow me to comment briefly on another important pillar of the work of this Organization, one that is mentioned in paragraphs 37 through 73 of the Secretary-General's report, namely, peace and security. The report shows that, over the past year, this Organization has continued to work on the ground, in particular in Africa. This involvement has led it to employ every means at its disposal for intervention, from conflict prevention to peacekeeping missions to support for peacebuilding.

With the modest means at its disposal, Cameroon has continued to be involved by making available and deploying military observers and police forces in United Nations peacekeeping missions in Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire and Darfur, on the borders of Chad and the Central African Republic, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and in Haiti.

My country welcomes the progress made in various places, thanks to the work or the assistance of the United Nations. Indeed, we commend the progress made in Côte d'Ivoire in implementing the Ouagadougou agreements and in peacebuilding there. In Burundi, the process is also moving forward, with the holding of elections, thus moving the country from the peacekeeping phase to the peacebuilding phase. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo too, the United Nations Mission has turned into a stabilization mission. In Haiti, we are moving towards stabilization, despite the delays caused by the 12 January 2010 earthquake.

We are, of course, aware of the fact that the available resources are not keeping pace with the constant increase in deployments, let alone the diversity and complexity of mission mandates. This is why we encourage the Secretary-General to continue his consideration of this issue, in collaboration with Member States, as part of the New Horizons initiative, in order to find solutions to those problems. For its part, my country supports the implementation of that programme, which has repeatedly received widespread support from many Member States, both in the Security Council and in the General Assembly.

The need to reform United Nations peacekeeping leads me to speak, in conclusion, about the need to reform the Organization and the system in its entirety, given the human tragedies we face, in particular in Africa, with regard to both development and peace. The central role of the United Nations in global governance is an undeniable fact. It is clear that, faced with the challenges that confront us, the United Nations is undertaking praiseworthy efforts. But, in order to fully guarantee the effectiveness of its work, the Organization must receive the resources that it needs from all its Members. To do so, it must always reflect our common desires and remain the crucible of multilateralism and of the democratization of international relations.

In that regard and in terms of the issue of development, the desire for increased solidarity and for an overhaul of the international system aimed at achieving a fairer trade and financial system must be heard. This is where the work that the United Nations will pursue with the Group of 20 and Group of Eight is cause for hope.

As regards the United Nations itself, the often-mentioned need for Security Council reform, which should enable Africa to have a permanent presence there, requires us to take determined action. That would be a good course of action for an Organization that, ultimately, is the mediator of our higher interests, with peace, security and the well-being of each and every person at the forefront of those interests.

**Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri** (India): I wish to thank the Secretary-General for his annual report on the work of the Organization (A/65/1).

The commitments that we undertook in 2000, enshrined in the Millennium Declaration, were renewed by our leaders two weeks ago at the High-level Plenary Meeting on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). As we take stock of the MDGs, it is evident that the progress reported by the Secretary-General on various fronts, such as poverty reduction, primary education enrolment, narrowing the gender

gap in education and access to clean water, is tempered by the uneven reach and significant gaps that persist in all the MDG categories, in particular the health-related MDGs.

Never before in the 65 years of the existence of the United Nations has there been such a groundswell of global support for taking development to the poorest and the most vulnerable among us, the overwhelming majority of whom are found in developing countries. Never before has there been a clearer picture of what needs to be done to address the many dimensions of poverty and inequality and to build a global partnership for development.

It is, therefore, imperative that we ensure that our collective commitments are achieved in the agreed time frame. While countries bear the primary responsibility for their own development strategies and goals, there is no denying that resource constraints pose a significant impediment to progress in achieving the MDGs. The global partnership on financing for development is crucial to ensuring that the developing countries can meet their MDG targets, particularly as they relate to the special needs of Africa and the least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked least developed countries. They must continue to receive priority attention.

We could not agree more with the Secretary-General that the achievement of the MDGs requires unswerving commitment, proactive engagement and collective global political leadership and will. It is time now for the high words to translate into action.

India shares the priority placed by the Secretary-General on climate change. We are aware of the consequences it has for vulnerable communities and regions in our countries. We welcome his initiative on a High-level Advisory Group on Climate Change Financing and a High-level Panel on Global Sustainability. India will participate constructively in efforts to achieve an ambitious and equitable outcome in the negotiations on the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

While the Secretary-General's report captures the priorities that have engaged the Organization and its membership, as well as the progress achieved on a number of fronts, we are struck by the singular lack of mention of the important progress made in advancing the agenda of Security Council reform. The launch of text-based negotiations and the overwhelming and emphatic support extended by the membership of the United Nations for expansion in both the permanent and non-permanent categories of the Security Council cannot go unacknowledged and needs to be properly recorded.

Intergovernmental negotiations on Security Council reforms acquired a positive momentum in the sixty-fourth session, with a decision by the membership to "immediately continue intergovernmental negotiations on Security Council reform" (*decision 64/568, para. (a)*) on the basis of the negotiation text. The Organization's success in meeting the diverse and complex challenges it faces is to a great extent based on our willingness to accept and undertake the crying need for reform of the principal organs of the United Nations, in particular the Security Council. It is our firm belief that the effectiveness and relevance of the multilateral endeavour that constitutes the United Nations and its activities diminishes every day that we delay implementing real reforms of its governance architecture.

I also draw attention to the progress made in the revitalization of the General Assembly. Its pre-eminent role as the chief deliberative, policy-making and representative organ of the United Nations should be respected in letter and in spirit. The Ad Hoc Working Group on the revitalization of the General Assembly did commendable work during the previous session. In that connection, we welcome the adoption of consensus resolution 64/301 on the subject based on the conclusions in the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group (A/64/903). A number of forward-looking provisions were agreed on, including those relating to enhancing the Assembly's role in the selection and appointment of the Secretary-General, enhancing the role of the Assembly in the maintenance of international peace and security, strengthening the institution of the presidency of the General Assembly and improving the quality of reporting by the Security Council to the General Assembly.

Terrorism poses a grave threat to all States and societies. It is a global threat that requires a coordinated and concerted global response to combat it. In this regard, India believes that the adoption of a comprehensive convention against international terrorism, which has been under negotiation for over 15 years, would provide a solid legal basis for the fight against terrorism. We therefore welcome the Secretary-General's assertion in his report on measures to

eliminate international terrorism (A/65/175) that comprehensive implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy cannot be complete without the conclusion of the comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

Ongoing efforts, such as the recent second biennial review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, institutionalization of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and the strengthening of the sanctions regime created by Security Council resolution 1267 (1999) are steps in the right direction. India will continue its active involvement in all the counter-terrorism efforts of the United Nations.

Peacekeeping continues to be the most visible contribution of the United Nations towards the maintenance of peace and stability in conflict-torn regions around the world. As one of the largest contributors to peacekeeping operations, both in terms of troops and resources, we support efforts by the Secretary-General to strengthen the capability of the Organization to keep peace in increasingly complex situations. The challenge is to ensure that field missions are equipped with adequate resources and expertise to satisfactorily execute peacekeeping mandates.

My delegation is following with close interest the Secretary-General's efforts to enhance the Secretariat's ability to support peacekeeping operations. In that regard, we expect the Secretariat to closely consult with us and other troop-contributing countries in further taking forward the global field support strategy that was unveiled last year.

India remains acutely conscious that peacekeeping cannot be a substitute for the task of nation-building and peacebuilding. The Government of India is committed to the principle and practice of peacebuilding. We have been actively involved in the process of the ongoing review of the peacebuilding architecture that is centred on the Peacebuilding Commission and its instrumentalities. There have been a number of innovative mechanisms put in place to bolster United Nations peacebuilding efforts, including collaboration with the World Bank, expanding the footprint of post-conflict consolidation through enhancing civilian capacities, maximizing the positive role that women can play in peacebuilding and strengthening the catalytic role of the Peacebuilding Fund. We support those innovations. We would further like to stress the imperative of national ownership and the anchoring of international peacebuilding efforts at the country level.

We are encouraged by the positive signs of an invigorated international debate on global disarmament in 2010. India attaches the highest priority to the goal of universal nuclear disarmament and has an impeccable non-proliferation record. Nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation are mutually reinforcing processes, and they require concerted and cooperative international efforts. We would like to express our appreciation for the Secretary-General's initiative to convene the High-level Meeting on Revitalizing the Work of the Conference on Disarmament and Taking Forward Multilateral Disarmament Negotiations. We believe that it has rightfully sent a clear message of support for the Conference on Disarmament as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum and that it provides political impetus to the multilateral disarmament agenda.

We appreciate the efforts of the Secretary-General in advocating the principles of promotion and protection of human rights and the rule of law. We also recognize their synergistic link with human welfare and socio-economic development, including the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. The review exercise of the Human Rights Council should explore ways to preserve transparency and inclusiveness and to ensure that, while urgent human rights situations are addressed, duplication and overlap are avoided. The Council should also streamline the number of resolutions put forward in each session, rationalize its work and the mandates of its special procedures, without in any way undermining our commitment to human rights and make the dialogue between the Council and Member States genuinely interactive.

The institutional strengthening of the Organization to better enable it to deliver on its vision and mandate received a boost with the adoption of General Assembly resolution 64/289 on system-wide coherence. India particularly welcomes the landmark decision to create a unified gender entity, UN Women. We look forward to the early operationalization of the entity and welcome the appointment of Michelle Bachelet as the first Executive Director and Under-Secretary-General for UN Women.

In closing, I pledge my delegation's full support for efforts to achieve the important goals we have set for ourselves and take forward the important mandates entrusted to the Organization. We look forward to building on the positive momentum from last year on crucial issues and working towards meaningful and result-oriented discussions on the various items on the agenda of the General Assembly.

**Mrs. Dunlop** (Brazil): I thank Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for his report on the work of the Organization (A/65/1). It presents the activities of the United Nations during a period in which the world's demands of and expectations for the Organization were very high. We appreciated the continued efforts of the Secretary-General and the Secretariat to help Member States meet such expectations and respond to those demands.

More than ever, multilateralism is a political and practical imperative. Dealing with the many global challenges with which we are confronted requires enhanced cooperation and decision-making processes that are more participatory. In some areas, the traditional players have already understood that. In others, there is still resistance to sharing power and responsibilities. We must all constantly work to strengthen the General Assembly with concrete initiatives. Just as importantly, the Security Council must be reformed and expanded to allow for greater participation on the part of developing countries, including as permanent members.

Africa is — and rightly so — a key priority in the various fields of the work of the United Nations. Such a priority should be permanently translated into specific initiatives. The continent occupies a very special place in Brazilian diplomacy. Through trade and investment, we are joining forces with several African Governments to develop the enormous potential of the continent and reduce its dependency on foreign assistance. This year, in which a significant number of African nations are celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of their decolonization, Brazil is renewing its commitment to an independent, prosperous, just and democratic Africa.

Among the many activities undertaken by the Organization, those in the social domain deserve particular attention. The Millennium Declaration (resolution 55/2) and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are key guides to our collective endeavours. Brazil is proud to have achieved almost all of the Millennium Development Goals and to be well on the way to meeting them all by 2015. We consider, however, that achieving the MDGs will not be possible without the allocation of significant additional financial resources in a stable and predictable manner, particularly to the poorest countries among us. All Member States must fulfil their international obligations in this regard. The inability of a country to reach those Goals is a responsibility to be shared by the international community, as the promotion of development is a task for us all.

Reaching a global, comprehensive and ambitious agreement on climate change remains a major challenge that requires actions commensurate with our common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. Brazil and other developing countries are doing their part. A positive outcome from the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, with tangible progress on forests, financing for adaptation and mitigation, access to technologies and the reaffirmation of the Kyoto commitments is paramount. As Minister for Foreign Affairs Celso Amorim stated here in his intervention during the general debate, the Mexican presidency can count on Brazil's engagement to achieve this objective.

Human rights are a basic pillar of the United Nations and a central part of its work. Brazil's commitment to the promotion of human rights is unwavering. The Human Rights Council must continue to operate in a non-selective and constructive manner, especially through the Universal Periodic Review, while maintaining the capacity to address situations of particular concern. In our view, human rights are most effectively ensured by dialogue and cooperation.

We welcome the establishment of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women). Brazil is ready to work with President Michelle Bachelet and Member States to further advance gender equality and the empowerment of women. As the Secretary-General has stated, "by empowering women, we empower societies".

The year 2010 will be remembered as the year that the capacity of the international community to respond to humanitarian emergencies was put to the test. From Haiti to Pakistan, we have seen genuine

success stories, but also witnessed the limits of current mechanisms when facing calamities of biblical proportions. It is imperative that we redouble our efforts in order to ensure timely life-saving assistance to those in need, as well as the means to promote the transition to recovery and development. With regard to Haiti in particular, we believe that the holding of the International Donors' Conference Towards a New Future for Haiti was an important example of the Organization's aid to a country devastated by a natural disaster. For such a response to be effective, however, it is imperative that donors live up to their pledges in a timely manner.

United Nations peacekeeping continues to be one of the most crucial aspects of the Organization's work for millions of people around the world. We strongly support the continued partnership among the troop- and police-contributing countries, the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Secretariat to make peacekeeping more effective. In the coming year, we hope to see continued progress in areas such as the linkage between peacekeeping and peacebuilding, interaction with local populations and the protection of civilians. One challenge of particular importance today is how to address the complex problems of security and development in ways that are distinct and yet mutually reinforcing. This is not simple, but absolutely must be done.

In order to achieve a truly secure world, the promise of the total elimination of nuclear weapons must be fulfilled. Unilateral reductions are welcome but insufficient, especially when they occur in tandem with the modernization of nuclear arsenals. There is a clear and inextricable link between disarmament and non-proliferation. They are mutually reinforcing processes, in which the best guarantee against nuclear proliferation is nuclear disarmament. We strongly support the rejuvenation of the Conference on Disarmament. The balance between the three pillars of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons must be maintained.

Our times are surely challenging, but are also very promising. The world is changing and it can be made a better place. The United Nations is and must remain a valuable instrument to help us achieve that shared goal. Brazil renews its full commitment to the Organization.

**Mrs. Kolontai** (Belarus) (*spoke in Russian*): The delegation of Belarus welcomes the conceptual approach of the Secretary-General's report (A/65/1) to solving topical issues on the international agenda, in particular in the context of implementing commitments to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

We support additional measures to establish innovative financing and investment mechanisms and to provide resources to strengthen peace and security and to meet humanitarian needs and uphold human rights.

We share the view of the Secretary-General on the main mechanism for implementing this approach — multilateralism and partnerships, to which there exists no alternative.

An excellent example of the partnership policy playing out in practice in the United Nations is the General Assembly's consensus adoption, at its sixty-fourth session, of the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons (resolution 64/293). We all have painstaking work to do together to ensure the full and effective implementation of this comprehensive document.

A few days ago, from this rostrum, the Belarusian delegation put forward a new idea in the area of global partnership aimed at supporting talented young people and protecting the younger generation from social decline. We hope that Member States will respond to Belarus's initiative and support the holding of thematic debates in the Assembly on the issue.

The current global economic instability demonstrates the need for taking measures to establish a sustainable economy. One pillar of such an economy, along with other sectors, should be the energy sector, based on the exploitation of new and renewable power sources. We are convinced that work in the area of energy could facilitate the establishment of a comprehensive energy agenda for the United Nations. We note the contribution of the Secretariat to finding solutions to the problem of energy supply. In that regard, we commend the conclusions and recommendations of the Secretary-General's Advisory Group on Energy and Climate Change, particularly regarding the provision of access to modern energy technologies. We expect the United Nations to continue its assistance in establishing a global partnership in the energy sector, with special attention to the transfer of

modern energy technologies. Belarus is ready to make its contribution to this effort, and has already set up an international laboratory on renewable energy sources, based at the Institute for Energy of the National Academy of Sciences.

Belarus is interested in the successful outcome of the negotiations on climate change. The modest achievements of the Copenhagen Conference are a convincing demonstration of the necessity of taking specific measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Efforts by Belarus for several years to ensure the entry into force of its amendment to Annex B of the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change — and thus to make its contribution to the overall protection of the climate — have unfortunately so far been unsuccessful. In that regard, however, we note the support of China, Egypt, Israel, Kyrgyzstan, Mauritius, Morocco, the Republic of Korea and Ukraine, which all approved the Belarus amendment during the Assembly's sixty-fourth session. We believe that the Secretary-General's authoritative position as depositary of the Convention and Kyoto Protocol will play a decisive role in accelerating the approval process of the Belarus amendment.

In the context of United Nations assistance to Member States beset by natural and man-made disasters, we note that the impact of the Chernobyl catastrophe is still being felt today, 25 years after the accident. We are convinced that the successful mitigation of the results of the Chernobyl explosion is in the interests of the entire international community. In that regard, we call for the Assembly's support for the draft resolution on Chernobyl.

We recognize the positive effect of measures taken by the United Nations to improve the social and economic situation in the world. We note, however, that implementing such measures is impossible without enhancing the economic capacity and political role of middle-income countries, which can make an important contribution to the stable growth of the world's economy. Belarus therefore requests the United Nations to undertake a more productive modernization of its working methods, first and foremost by ensuring its economic and social effectiveness.

We commend the leading role of the Economic and Social Council, which has a key part to play as coordinator in this area. At the same time, we consider that more attention should be paid to the work of intergovernmental mechanisms, in particular the Economic and Social Council's Development Cooperation Forum. Participation in the Forum by interested parties, including the private sector, will enable it to deal with many thorny issues, including the achievement of the MDGs. National voluntary presentations at the Council's high-level segment are another important tool for sharing experience and fostering coordination. Belarus will submit its national report at the annual Economic and Social Council session in 2011.

The achievement of the MDGs is an international issue. However, the main responsibility for it lies with national Governments. The Belarusian Government's strong social policies have meant that over the past 10 years our country has seen a threefold increase in income, an eightfold decrease in those living below the poverty line and a threefold drop in the unemployment rate. Our maternal and child mortality levels are approaching those of developed countries, and the proportion of women in Parliament now exceeds 30 per cent. Belarus has thus already attained most of the MDGs and intends to achieve the rest by 2015.

In its progress towards achieving the MDGs, Belarus has demonstrated in practice its commitment to human rights. In that regard, we note the observation in the Secretary-General's report that the protection of human rights should be an integral part of efforts by Member States in the area of development.

Belarus is in agreement with the Secretary-General's opinion that 2010 has been a significant year for work in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation. The year was marked by a number of international activities relating to disarmament. The outcome of those meetings demonstrates that of all the many issues linked to international security, the topic of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation is still very pertinent. The May Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons showed the importance of maintaining and strengthening this international instrument. We hope that the outcome document of the Conference (NPT/CONF.2010/50), which includes, among other things, a specific list of future actions, will be a productive basis for the work of Treaty member States to achieve the Treaty's aims swiftly. We believe that providing non-nuclear-weapon States with negative security assurances based on a legally binding

document will significantly shore up the non-proliferation regime.

Belarus welcomes United Nations efforts to counter the illicit and uncontrolled proliferation of small arms and light weapons. We hope that this area will remain an important part of the Organization's work on the disarmament track. We were pleased to hear of the Secretary-General's efforts to revitalize the work of the Conference on Disarmament. Belarus supports the convening of a fourth special session of the General Assembly on disarmament, during which important issues with regard to revitalizing the Conference could be reviewed. We hope that this important negotiating body will soon emerge from crisis and renew its substantive work.

Belarus has consistently held to the opinion that the successful implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy depends on a reliable international legal basis for action by States in the fight against terrorism. We believe that the General Assembly — without substituting for the Security Council — can make a significant contribution to the efforts of the international community to combat terrorism by the speedy completion of its work on a comprehensive convention on terrorism. Belarus is prepared for constructive discussions on proposals for the completion of the final draft of the convention. We also underscore the importance of technical assistance provided by bodies such as the Counter-Terrorism Committee, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the International Atomic Energy Agency, Interpol and other organizations.

Belarus welcomes the establishment of the composite United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, as well as new approaches to regulate operational activities and other important elements included in resolution 64/289, on system-wide coherence. Unfortunately, it would seem that that is the only clear example of successful reform of the United Nations. We therefore call on the Secretary-General to continue efforts in that area. We believe that our combined efforts on revitalizing the work of the General Assembly should be given high priority.

**Mr. Rosenthal** (Guatemala) (*spoke in Spanish*): We thank the Secretary-General for presenting his report on the work of the Organization (A/65/1) during the past year as we initiate this sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly. We find the report to be complete and balanced, and, above all, it has suggestions regarding the major challenges that the United Nations faces in meeting our expectations in an international context characterized by more shadows than light.

The Secretary-General has proposed that those challenges can be grouped in three broad categories: a more prosperous world that is free of poverty, a greener world that is environmentally sustainable and a more secure world that is liberated from the risk of a nuclear holocaust. Those certainly are challenges of the first order, although from our perspective we would add three additional categories, to which I will allude presently.

As to the first category, the recent High-level Plenary Meeting on the Millennium Development Goals once more demonstrated not only our Organization's power to convene at the highest political level but its effectiveness in its advocacy role for development. We must persist in that core task and insist that all parties meet the responsibilities they agreed to in the year 2000. In any case, although the United Nations might not be called upon to play a central role in addressing the effects of the economic and financial crisis of 2008 — one of the major adverse events of our times — its moral authority and universal membership surely warrant that it be seated at the table where such matters are discussed.

Likewise, our intergovernmental forums — among others, the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the regional commissions, as well as their respective secretariats — continue to influence the priority development agenda at the international level and in each of our countries, while the system's programs and specialized agencies make an essential contribution to development cooperation.

As to the second category, the United Nations certainly showed the way forward with the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, whose enormous impact, in the sphere of both actions and ideas, will be the subject of an assessment in another two years. At the same time, the Organization is making great efforts to address what is perhaps the most relevant emerging issue of our generation: climate change and how it is affecting all aspects of human endeavour. It is essential

that progress be made at the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to be held in Cancún. Here again the United Nations is called upon to play a crucial role.

The third category — seeking a safer world — manifests itself in a number of ways. It starts with the core function of our Organization — fostering and maintaining peace — complemented by peacebuilding. It could be argued that this is the category where the most innovations have taken place in our Organization, ranging from the conceptual framework offered in the New Horizons Initiative in the area of peacekeeping to the establishment five years ago of the Peacebuilding Commission and the Peacebuilding Fund.

Conceptual and practical progress has also been achieved in diverse areas such as the protection of civilians in situations of conflict, especially of vulnerable civilians, including women and children. Recent events in the Democratic Republic of the Congo illustrate just how difficult that task really is. We also value the renewed impetus that the Secretary-General has given to the subject of disarmament, a matter that has been rather stagnant and neglected in the last decades.

As a complement to the three large categories of topics alluded to by the Secretary-General, he could very well have added three additional categories: first, the basic purpose of the United Nations, which is to promote and defend human rights; second, the growing importance of the Organization in providing humanitarian assistance; and third, cross-cutting issues such as gender equality.

With regard to the promotion of human rights, in recent years new topics have surfaced, such as the responsibility to protect our respective populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity; a stronger commitment to the situation of indigenous peoples; the effort to combat impunity and establish the rule of law; and the possibility of reviewing the work of the Human Rights Council in the near future.

The role of the United Nations as a provider of humanitarian assistance became dramatically apparent in the last year, with the earthquake that levelled Port-au-Prince in Haiti and, very recently, the flooding that affected millions in Pakistan. In spite of the extraordinary demands placed on the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the World Food Programme and other specialized agencies, the system was able to respond in a satisfactory manner.

Finally, as to the cross-cutting issues, the creation of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women — UN Women — appears at the forefront of our agenda. The appointment of the former President of Chile, Ms. Michelle Bachelet, a very well-respected person, as its first Executive Director has contributed to expectations of an impetus that the Organization will be able to provide in this area.

This small sample of the broad and diverse agenda we have before us — without even touching on other high-priority issues, such as combating transnational crime, implementing the Counter-Terrorism Strategy and analysing international migrations — underscores the singular nature of the United Nations and its continued relevance, in spite of the shortcomings that we are all familiar with and the criticism that the Organization's detractors continuously hurl at it.

That said, we must recognize that we are still wed to an institutional structure designed to respond to twentieth-century problems, not necessarily those of the twenty-first century. Some progress has been made in the area of administrative management and in coordination and consistency, and the agenda has slowly moved towards embracing emerging issues. However, it could be argued that progress has been slow, insufficient and, in some cases, superficial. The mother of all reforms, the reform of the Security Council, continues to languish. It is high time that we seriously address that issue, since a solution making the Council more representative would not only be justified in itself but would also open the way for the other reforms the United Nations needs in order to reach its full potential.

To conclude, I would like to say a few words about the Secretariat and about the staff that serves it. I am moved to do so by the memory of the 105 staff members who lost their lives in Haiti in the performance of their duties. And perhaps I am also moved by my current status as Chair of the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly. Having a Secretariat that inspires respect in Member States is a central point for the sound functioning of the United Nations. It requires the unshakeable leadership of the Secretary-General and highly competent and motivated

staff both at Headquarters and in the field. We believe that we are fortunate that the Secretariat already meets those criteria to a very high degree. But like everything else in life, it is subject to improvement. That is why the exercise that the General Assembly is to conduct this year to review human resources policies is of such importance, and it is also part of the strengthening that we seek for our Organization.

**Mr. Badji** (Senegal) (*spoke in French*): I would like to take the opportunity offered us by the consideration, at the beginning of this session, of the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization (A/65/1) to reiterate to the President the sincere congratulations of the Senegalese delegation on his election to the presidency of the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session. No one doubts that his qualities as an outstanding diplomat and his great experience on the international scene will enable us to make significant progress in our shared quest for solutions to problems that humanity is facing. In carrying out his noble mission, he can count on the active support of the Senegalese delegation.

Today more than ever the globalization of crises that transcend borders and differences reminds us of the pressing need for a more committed, more inclusive multilateral approach if together we want to have a collective effect on the future of the generations to come. The thoughts that we shared during the general debate just a few days ago all make us see that we need to think in new ways of how we can act as the international community to draw up bold solutions with a view to freeing our world from the numerous vices that hamper the flourishing of humankind.

The summit on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) that concluded about two weeks ago reminded us of the unpleasant assessment of the timid progress made in our common plan for achieving the Goals that we had undertaken to accomplish by 2015, as, incidentally, the report of the Secretary-General underlines.

Through the commitments in the outcome document of the summit on the MDGs (resolution 65/1), we have made a date with the poor and the vulnerable of this world in 2015. We have the collective and historic responsibility to achieve those Goals, which are clearly the minimum conditions that every person can expect for a decent existence. The time for action has come, and we must act quickly. Let us try to do so, so as not to disappoint the expectations of millions of men and women who are confronted daily with illness and despair.

But each — developed countries as well as developing countries — should play its part, because it is true that whatever the urgent efforts that our countries need to undertake, they can do so only if the commitments made in other frameworks and partnerships are acted on — for example, managing debt, promoting free and fair trade, improving the volume and quality of assistance and the mechanisms for granting it, and facilitating access to modern technologies.

With regard to Africa, which is lagging behind significantly in achieving the MDGs, it is for us, following the Secretary-General, to forcefully reaffirm that "Africa's people need neither pity nor charity; they need the tools to create jobs and generate incomes" (*A/65/1, para. 35*).

In truth, more than a need, it is an urgent requirement that we rethink and reform the methods and modes of action that have guided our approach until now in order to adapt them to the geopolitical realities of the twenty-first century. The issue is, most of all, to break with the status quo that marginalizes the majority of Member States and to establish a global order in which Africa will fully play the role it should have. Transparency, openness and inclusion should be the key words of the new order that we want to build together.

Significant progress has been made in the security situation in Africa in terms of settling crises and conflicts in countries such as Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau and the Sudan. But such progress does not mean that we should lose sight of the tragic situation that Somalia has plunged into, which deserves greater attention from us. The United Nations and the African Union should plan a joint action to bring an end to that human tragedy, which continues to unfold before our eyes.

Despite some satisfying progress here and there, with regard to the ever-increasing complexity of conflicts, we continually question the way the United Nations intervenes in theatres of operations. Should we not be considering integrating peacebuilding into peacekeeping operations, including a civil component that is more significant and better equipped? That question will undoubtedly be taken into account as part

of the review of the Peacebuilding Commission. It would also make sense to further explore the paths of preventive diplomacy, given the exorbitant cost of peacekeeping operations and the tragic consequences of conflicts. In that context, the accent should be on promoting good governance and combating drug trafficking, the illegal arms trade and all forms of human rights violations.

Concerning that very question of human rights, we should take advantage of the review of the operations of the Human Rights Council, scheduled for the current session, to correct its functional and structural shortcomings, in order to dispel the polemics and confrontations and to turn that body into an area for dialogue, where dynamic compromises can emerge that could preserve human dignity.

The United Nations must also fully play the role of guarantor of the international legal order, which, to be fair and effective, should be based on respect for and promotion of the rule of law. It is when we are united under one impetus that we are best able to prevent such serious crimes as genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and ethnic cleansing, and, when such crimes are committed, to react promptly and effectively. We truly have a shared responsibility to act in order to ensure that the atrocities that these serious crimes expose us to never happen again, and so that we can work towards the emergence of an effective, fair, impartial and apolitical international criminal justice system.

In the same way, we must do all we can to succeed in our crusade against terrorism. The challenge is enormous, of course, but it is within our reach if we can display the faith and commitment that the challenge demands. It goes without saying that effective implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy by all the relevant actors would be a notable step forward in our common struggle to utterly eradicate the scourge of terrorism.

While it is undeniable that through its actions the United Nations is an essential platform in the search for solutions to existing concerns, we must note that the complexity of emerging challenges, the gravity of new threats and the more or less serious failures and shortcomings threaten to render our actions less effective. As a universal Organization, the United Nations has the primary responsibility for facing up to that, in fully exercising its prerogatives, to produce optimum responses to the obstacles that block our ongoing quest for progress.

It is thus fortunate that our Organization has been enriched by the arrival of a new organ, UN Women, which places the gender dimension on the international agenda. I would like to assure the Assembly of Senegal's complete support for that new entity and its Under-Secretary-General, President Michelle Bachelet, while expressing my fervent wish that its contribution will enrich our Organization, whose universal mandate and scope will thus be strengthened in this area.

In conclusion, I would strongly encourage the Palestinian and Israeli peoples, condemned as they are to live together, to find the necessary resources to create the conditions in which they can coexist in peace and security. That will unquestionably come via the creation, at the side of Israel, of an independent, sovereign and viable Palestinian State, with defined and internationally recognized borders. That is the way to salvation in that region, and it is the earnest desire of my country.

**Ms. Blum** (Colombia) (*spoke in Spanish*): We began the current session only a few weeks ago, and the work that the Assembly has done is already quite extensive. That is why I would like to express my special appreciation for the exemplary way in which the President has conducted discussions and for the manner in which the work has been developing during the session.

As aptly noted by the Secretary-General in his report (A/65/1), the United Nations has a concrete framework to guide its actions: the Millennium Declaration (resolution 55/2) and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). It is therefore extremely important that the High-level Plenary Meeting on the Millennium Development Goals served as the framework for the reaffirmation of our commitment to meeting the Goals we set for ourselves in 2000.

We are all aware of the enormous challenges we face for 2015. Recent progress by the Organization has shown that it is possible to develop specific tools to achieve substantial improvements in the welfare and living conditions of the most needy and to ensure basic rights to all persons. Let me mention two examples of that progress: the adoption of the action plan for the next five years approved by Member States in September, and the launch of the Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health, promoted by the

Secretary-General, which has received pledges of more than $40 billion.

Colombia also recognizes the special priority that the Secretary-General has given to the challenges that climate change creates for the international community. We appreciate the fact that the actions defined by the United Nations system in this area are subject to appropriate consultations with the States.

As a highly diverse country that is vulnerable to climate change, Colombia is confident that we will reach agreements, both in Nagoya at the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biodiversity, and in Cancún at the Conference on the Climate Change Convention. It is also essential to recognize the intrinsic relations between climate change and biodiversity, and, based on those relations, to coordinate the actions taken by the Conventions to address both themes in the context of the United Nations.

We reiterate that in order to meet the Millennium Development Goals, international cooperation must play a role of the greatest importance. The world economy is beginning to show signs of recovery from one of its worst crises, and it is time to get back on track to making good on the cooperation and assistance commitments undertaken by the entire international community.

Colombia has managed to overcome challenges that called into question its viability as a State. Now, we are seen as a role model because of our strengthened democratic institutions, the radical improvement in our security, and our socio-economic development potential. The experiences in the fight against adversity allowed us to develop technical and operational capabilities that we are sharing with various countries. Issues such as the conservation and sustainable use of forests, renewable energies, the fight against terrorism and drug trafficking, the fight against the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, humanitarian assistance, and the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of illegal armed groups are just some of the areas in which Colombia can contribute to ensuring the protection of and access to the global public goods to which the Secretary-General referred to in his report.

In connection with some of those issues, we would like to encourage the work of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, given the need to move forward more firmly and decisively with the implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. I take this opportunity to reiterate our call to all States to reinvigorate efforts to agree on and promptly promulgate a general convention against terrorism.

Similarly, in 2012 we must achieve a balanced, legally binding arms trade treaty with the highest possible common standards, because, as noted in the Secretary-General's report, unregulated arms transfers have many negative effects on stability, development and human rights.

On the other hand, the efforts made by the Organization in the maintenance of international peace and security deserve special mention. It has been expanding its role of supporting peace and stabilization processes and has made innovative use of the resources at its disposal in the exercise of preventive diplomacy.

With regard to the role of peacebuilding and peacekeeping operations, it is important to continue to strengthen coordinated working mechanisms among the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Secretariat and other bodies, so that, within their respective competencies, comprehensive and inclusive work can be developed, given that, as the Secretary-General stated, peacekeeping and peacebuilding activities are not substitutes for lasting political solutions to crisis situations.

This year, the world has faced some of the worst natural disasters ever seen, and the Organization faced particular challenges in attending to those suffering their consequences. It is time to reinforce measures in disaster prevention and risk mitigation, as well as the coordination of humanitarian assistance and efforts to strengthen stable transitions to development.

The case of Haiti deserves special attention because, as President Juan Manuel Santos said before this Assembly (see A/65/PV.15), the people of that brotherly country are still suffering the consequences of the earthquake of 12 January 2010. Approximately nine months have passed since the tragedy, and many of the commitments we made to the Government and people of Haiti have yet to be realized. We cannot forget those who need us and have pinned their hopes on the Organization, especially when we aim to provide long-term solutions.

There is a cross-cutting theme of utmost importance in the report of the Secretary-General. I am referring to the topic of gender equality and the empowerment of women. We welcome the adoption by consensus of resolution 64/289, which established the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. I congratulate former Chilean President Michelle Bachelet on her appointment as Under-Secretary-General to lead that new entity in its dual mandate of promoting the incorporation of gender perspectives in the work of the Organization and strengthening cooperation with States in this area.

In this the year in which the United Nations suffered its greatest ever loss of life in the line of duty, Colombia would like to add its voice to that of the Secretary-General in paying tribute to all personnel who lost their lives in pursuit of the ideals of our Organization.

Finally, Colombia thanks the Secretary-General for presenting his report on the work of the Organization, which reflects the diligent work he carries out, together with the entire team of the Secretariat, towards the realization of the goals we have set ourselves. I reiterate my delegation's steady support for him in carrying out his work successfully and effectively.

**Mr. Ali** (Malaysia): I would like to thank the Secretary-General for his report (A/65/1), which he presented to this body on 23 September (see A/65/PV.11). The thrust of this year's report is more positive than in previous years, indicating that the Organization has managed to achieve more in this past year despite the ever-present global challenges. We congratulate the men and women of the United Nations, who have been able to ensure delivery of the Organization's mandate.

One obvious addition to the United Nations family over the past year, and one which my country is pleased to welcome, is the establishment of a dedicated entity for gender equality and the empowerment of women — UN Women, for short.

Women's empowerment is nothing new for Malaysia, which has had such a policy since the days leading up to our independence. Women have always been a major part of the Malaysian workforce, rising up through the ranks to hold positions such as Governor of the Central Bank, Attorney General, Solicitor General and Accountant General, even as early as the 1980s. Then, of course, there were the ambassadors, the heads of departments and the chief executive officers of companies. But for some reason there has never been an abundance of women in politics, with national figures only hovering around the 10 per cent mark, and well below the 19 per cent average internationally.

When Member States voted unanimously to establish UN Women in July of this year, it signalled a significant milestone in the work of the Organization. It meant that global movement for the empowerment of women had finally arrived and the goal of achieving true gender equality was inching ever closer. It also meant that the streamlining of women's participation within the United Nations would be even greater than before. The Secretary-General has done a commendable job in naming to his cabinet, and to the posts of Under-Secretaries-General, a number of competent, prolific and dynamic women, in recognition of their work and capabilities.

This past year also saw a number of historic events both in the work of the Organization and in the mandate with which the Organization was entrusted. In the final month of 2009, Copenhagen welcomed climate change negotiators from near and far, but the Conference failed to deliver on its promise of a better future. Even though expectations of a breakthrough agreement in Copenhagen were high, they were in no way unrealistic, particularly for those nations whose very survival is already in jeopardy. When we convene in Cancún this year, we will have another chance to make a real change for the future. The Organization can play a leading role in ensuring that we do not waste yet another opportunity to effect a sustainable and satisfactory post-Kyoto world.

The second historic event to occur this past year with regard to the Organization had to do with the regular budget of the United Nations itself. This year, the United Nations regular budget topped the $5 billion mark for the first time since the Organization's establishment. Only two cycles ago, the regular budget for the biennium 2006-2007 stood at $3.8 billion. That means that, in a mere four years, the United Nations expanded its budget by 30 per cent. While the figures themselves are not particularly earth-shattering, in a world of increasingly limited resources where sustainability is key, the United Nations must find innovative ways to halt this budget expansion. For one,

work duplication within the United Nations system that results in the creation of administrative posts must be stopped. It must also be remembered that this figure does not include the nearly $8 billion allocated for peacekeeping activities alone.

Thirdly, the deployment of United Nations peacekeeping personnel in 2009 reached, as the Secretary-General put it, unprecedented levels, rising to 124,000 deployed personnel. As one of the cornerstones in the work of the United Nations, the deployment of United Nations personnel to maintain peace and security remains an important aspect of United Nations work overall. But it is hoped that these figures will decrease significantly with the scheduled withdrawal or drawdown of the United Nations in three of its current 16 peacekeeping missions. We hope too that the integrated approach being introduced will help bring about greater efficiency in the way the United Nations conducts its presence on the ground.

The fourth milestone for the Organization this past year had to do with the number of new humanitarian emergencies it had to handle. A total of 43 new emergencies within a period of some 12 months could stretch United Nations resources even further, thus hindering its ability to respond effectively and efficiently to such emergencies. Malaysia notes that the number of natural disasters continues to rise on a yearly basis. We believe that, to a certain extent, this may be attributable to the climate change phenomenon. The only solution to the growing incidence of natural disasters would be to address the problem of climate change now, as it is now more imperative than ever to gather the collective will to tackle this global challenge.

On the issue of humanitarian assistance, Malaysia remains deeply concerned by the rising attacks on humanitarian workers under the United Nations banner. These attacks, while in no way excusable or acceptable, must surely have some grounding in perceived grievances or distrust in the Organization as a whole. In the short term, the Secretary-General's proposal to review and adjust security arrangements would enable the Organization to continue to carry out one of its mainstay activities. However, in the longer term we must reconsider the way we do business. Long-term programmes must be established to ensure the safety and security of United Nations workers on the ground, including through embarking on favourable public relations.

It was not so long ago that those who wore United Nations blue helmets or worked under the United Nations banner were given sufficient deference to go about their tasks. We need to reclaim that level of respect for the work of the Organization, which would be more effective in ensuring safety and security than flexing our military might or cocooning ourselves in a bubble. The two cornerstones of United Nations work — peacekeeping and humanitarian assistance — must not be compromised.

Every year, all of us in this Hall look forward to the Secretary-General's report on the work of the Organization. We do so because as Member States of the Organization we have a stake in its success, in its shortcomings and, most of all, in the work that it carries out for the global village we live in. As so many people have put it, including the Secretary-General himself, the United Nations is more than just a collection of buildings, or principles, or ideas and ideals. The United Nations, working together, is more than just the sum total of its present Members. It is an Organization bolstered by the multiplier effect of its Members' strength. This is why so many nations are committed to making the Organization work and to ensuring the continuity of the good work it carries out around the world.

For many small or developing countries worldwide, the work of the United Nations fills the capability gap that individual nations alone cannot hope to fill. Even though the United Nations cannot become everything to everyone, it is still the best hope we have of building a better, just and secure world.

**Mr. Acharya** (Nepal): I would like to thank the Secretary-General for his comprehensive presentation of the report on the work of the Organization (A/65/1). The report contains observations and insightful suggestions on some of the key issues on the United Nations agenda. On the whole, the report provides a good basis for comprehensive and constructive intergovernmental deliberations on issues of major importance to the global community. We are pleased that the level of sensitization to development issues at the global level has increased prominently this year, yet there remains a long way to go before the relevant commitments achieve the development goals.

The 2010 high-level review of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) last month concluded that accelerated progress is required if all the targets were

to be met by 2015. We are glad that there was general acceptance that while progress has been made on many fronts, we must scale up our efforts more consistently and comprehensively, in particular through global partnerships. It was particularly stressed that countries and regions lagging behind, such as least developed countries (LDCs), would need additional concrete support from the international community towards national leadership of programmes to meet the MDG targets. The already precarious conditions of LDC populations living in poverty and hunger have worsened in the wake of multiple yet mutually exacerbating economic, financial and food and energy crises, together with the adverse and disproportionate impacts of climate change.

As reflected in the earlier report entitled "Keeping the promise" (A/64/665), we would have liked to see the situation of the LDCs clearly articulated in the Secretary-General's current report in terms of their monumental development challenges as the most vulnerable group. It is our considered view, and one generally accepted by all, that the MDGs and other internationally agreed development goals cannot be achieved unless they are achieved by the LDCs as well. That should be duly reflected in all United Nations reports.

The maintenance of international peace and security is the primary responsibility of the United Nations. In today's interconnected and globalized world, the notion of security transcends the confines of military threats and challenges. Therefore, preventive diplomacy must encompass this aspect alongside support for peace processes in countries emerging from, or in, conflict.

In recent years the demand for increased United Nations involvement in preventive diplomacy, crisis management, conflict resolution and building sustainable peace has increased phenomenally. Increased responsibility calls for increased political commitment and resources. New and changing patterns of conflicts and crises require commensurate responses that often involve new and innovative solutions. We share the concerns expressed by the Secretary-General in paragraph 66 of his report. We must take full ownership of all United Nations peacekeeping missions and provide them with clear and unambiguous mandates, which need to be designed in close cooperation with troop-contributing countries while also taking into account the concerns of the parties involved.

Guided by its profound commitment to contribute to the maintenance of international peace and security, Nepal has consistently participated in United Nations peacekeeping operations around the world. We remain steadfast in our commitment.

The ongoing review of the peacebuilding architecture offers an opportunity to consider further measures to strengthen its effectiveness on the ground. We will fully engage in its deliberations in the days ahead.

The consolidation of national ownership and capacity-building and greater involvement and coordination among United Nations organs on peacebuilding issues, with a key role for the Peacebuilding Commission and the realization of the Commission's full potential, with more resources and political commitment through the effective implementation of the integrated strategic framework, will be essential to laying a strong and sustainable foundation for peace, reconstruction and recovery. We should also make sure that we integrate peacebuilding efforts early on with peacekeeping operations. We welcome the recent efforts to establish collaboration and partnership with the World Bank and other financial institutions to mobilize resources for peacebuilding efforts. We also call for greater involvement of women in peacebuilding to ensure inclusiveness for its long-term sustainability.

Natural disasters, poverty and hunger, financial crises, resource scarcity, population growth and growing urbanization have increased humanitarian challenges. The devastating earthquake in Haiti and the unprecedented floods in Pakistan and elsewhere have underscored the imperative need for building enhanced capacity for disaster management and risk reduction.

Similarly, it is worrisome to note that the economic and food crises and climate change continue to have a negative impact on human rights, with increased incidences of xenophobia and discrimination against non-citizens in certain parts of the world. This has underlined the fact that guaranteeing economic security to all is critically important in order to ensure the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms by all.

The universality, indivisibility and non-selectivity of all human rights help promote global adherence to human rights values and norms. Poor and vulnerable countries must be provided with adequate resources and means to guarantee the practical benefits of globalized human rights norms and values to their citizens. It is in this context that the significance of the right to development also needs to be underlined.

We attach importance to the review of the Human Rights Council. The Universal Periodic Review, which is an important feature of the Council, must be preserved and further strengthened with a view to promoting and protecting human rights globally. I would like to reaffirm that Nepal's commitment to all human rights is unequivocal. We have thus made substantive progress in protecting and promoting fundamental human rights over the past few years.

The report states in paragraph 106 that addressing climate change, advancing on a global health agenda, countering terrorism and making progress on disarmament and non-proliferation have been priorities for the Secretary-General. However, in our view, poverty and hunger should also be treated with the equal priority they deserve within the overall strategic orientation of the Organization. This is obvious as the world, with over 1 billion people living in poverty and hunger, cannot be considered as a safe place for all to live in.

The climate negotiations in Cancún, Mexico, later this year must work towards producing an ambitious and legally binding instrument to succeed the Kyoto Protocol. The cost of delay and failure to act on this existential issue will be colossal. The international community must provide much-needed political support to push the process forward while respecting the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. Building trust among countries, ensuring transparency in the negotiations and finding effective and innovative solutions for deeper emission cuts should underpin the dialogue. An early agreement on financing mechanisms would greatly contribute to enhancing confidence in the negotiation process.

Least developed countries, which are highly vulnerable to climate change, are bearing unacceptably disproportionate impacts as compared to their negligible contribution to climate change. My country, Nepal, also falls in this category. Global warming has caused rapid melting of snow in the Nepali Himalayas. About two dozen of our glacial lakes could burst at any time, causing a huge loss of life and property. In addition, we face extreme weather patterns, floods, soil degradation and desertification. The protection of mountain ecology, which is fragile and a great repository of biodiversity, is critically important to preserve the Himalayas, which are also the perennial source of fresh water for over 1 billion people living in South Asia and beyond.

The international community must agree on new, predictable, transparent and substantially enhanced resource mobilization and a fast-track provision to ensure resources for mitigation, adaptation, transfer of technology, REDD-plus and capacity-building in least developed countries, commensurate with their needs and vulnerabilities.

Nepal has consistently called for general and complete disarmament with respect to all weapons of mass destruction and for the elimination of nuclear weapons in a time-bound manner. Nepal stands for the early operationalization of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and an early conclusion of a fissile material cut-off treaty.

We concur with the apt remark of the Secretary-General that the world is over-armed and that development is under-funded. The international community must make serious efforts to promote complete and general disarmament and divert resources from armaments to invest in long-term peace, stability and prosperity for the world. This is what our conscience dictates, and this is what is just and equitable.

Terrorism is a crime and cannot be justified on any grounds. Concerted global efforts are required to wipe out this deadly menace from our planet.

Similarly, the global health agenda must receive continued priority, especially given the fact that most countries are lagging behind in meeting health-related MDGs, particularly those related to maternal health. We agree with the Secretary-General that the importance of health for economic productivity, social stability, security and poverty reduction must be stressed.

Nepal has expressed support for a change in the composition and working methods of the Security Council. We support expansion in the membership of the Council in both categories. We welcome the recent

efforts to structure the debate on the expansion. We are of the view that all five core issues identified must be addressed in a holistic manner to agree on a reform package.

We must also ensure that the power and authority of the General Assembly, as the only representative body, must be enhanced in a manner commensurate with its standing. In that context, we welcome the ongoing discussions on the revitalization of the General Assembly, as envisioned by the founders, to strike the right balance between the different organs of the United Nations. We welcome the establishment of UN Women and the resolution on system-wide coherence (resolution 64/289).

It is not only the General Assembly and the Security Council that are in need of reform, but also the Economic and Social Council. The role of the Economic and Social Council must be enhanced in promoting global economic relations and advancing the development agenda in close cooperation with the Bretton Woods and other relevant institutions. We are happy with the recent progress in the reform of the Economic and Social Council, but we would like to see this process further accelerated. The United Nations must take a lead role in ensuring coherence and consistency in global economic, financial and trading systems.

In conclusion, Nepal has an abiding faith in the principles and purposes of the United Nations Charter as an indispensable instrument for global peace, stability and progress. It must promote all its pillars coherently and vigorously. A strong and capable United Nations buttresses multilateralism, which is essential today more than ever before to deal with the global problems of our time.

**Mr. Park In-Kook** (Republic of Korea): Allow me to begin by thanking the Secretary-General for his annual report (A/65/1), which provides a comprehensive and clear overview of the Organization's achievements, as well as its challenges, and lays out a coherent blueprint for future accomplishments.

As the Secretary-General reminds us in his report,

> "The challenges are immense, but experience has shown that when strong commitments are backed by the right policies and adequate resources, even the greatest needs can be met and real progress can be achieved." (*A/65/1, para. 12*)

My delegation believes that the international community's most pressing challenges should be tackled efficiently through sustained global and collective action. The United Nations is at the forefront of that effort, as the preeminent international Organization bestowed with authority and legitimacy.

The High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in September was a good opportunity to consolidate political will and galvanize the efforts of the international community. With just five years remaining until 2015, many delegations shared the concern that the prospects for achieving the MDGs did not seem bright. However, we should note that our determination to achieve the MDGs is stronger than ever. Indeed, this has been demonstrated by the successful launch of the Secretary-General's Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health. My delegation believes that the Strategy will serve as an effective kick-start for the enhancement of maternal and child health, an area in which there has been little progress in most developing countries since 1990.

The success of the MDGs depends on action to deliver. Member States should keep their commitments and continue to strive in their efforts towards strengthening global partnerships based on mutual accountability. The outcome document (resolution 65/1) will serve as a valuable guide and tool in such efforts.

Keeping in mind the need to take a more active role in the global partnerships for development, the Republic of Korea is going to take concrete steps to fulfil its commitment to triple its 2008 official development assistance volume by 2015, to contribute $3.2 billion on an annual basis. In addition, by fully recognizing the special needs of Africa, the Republic of Korea is implementing its Korea-Africa initiative as a long-term programme for partnership with African countries.

Turning to climate change, our future greatly depends on how effectively and urgently we can address this issue. In that regard, my delegation appreciates the leadership of the Secretary-General in making this issue a priority since he first came into office. My delegation believes that such sustained

leadership will lead to a successful agreement at the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Cancún.

Allow me to take this opportunity to refer to the efforts of the Republic of Korea on the issue of climate change. In an effort to curb greenhouse gas emissions, the Korean Government has set itself a voluntary reduction target of 30 per cent of current levels by 2020. To shift from an energy-intensive to a green-growth economy, the Government of the Republic of Korea has also adopted a pilot low-carbon green-growth initiative to promote the growth of green industries.

In the area of peace and security, the intensifying demand for peacekeeping, with progressively complex and multidimensional mandates, reflects the world's faith in United Nations peacekeeping operations. The Republic of Korea also participates in the international support for peacekeeping operations. This year alone, the Government of the Republic of Korea has dispatched 240 contingents to the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti. Currently, some 650 Korean soldiers are serving in 11 peacekeeping missions.

To ensure sustainability and ultimate success, peacekeeping operations today must not just involve the military dimension, but must also encompass intertwined strategies rooted in development, human rights and disarmament. Similarly, preventive actions or alternatives to sizable peacekeeping operations need to be actively pursued. In that regard, my delegation appreciates the mediation support effort by the Department of Political Affairs. Mediation and other preventive measures should be viewed as complementary and integral parts of everyday peacekeeping operations.

Furthermore, peacebuilding efforts have now become an important feature of many peacekeeping missions. My delegation hopes that this year's review process will contribute to constructive improvement in United Nations peacebuilding, with a view towards enhancing transition during post-conflict periods and building lasting institutions.

With regard to humanitarian issues, despite the dedicated efforts and leadership of the Secretary-General, we still face enormous gaps and challenges on many fronts. The most prominent seems to be the funding shortage. Also, more efforts should be made to ensure the safety of humanitarian workers operating in high-risk environments. Strengthening partnerships with civil society and the private sector has become increasingly important in that regard, as the recent earthquakes in Haiti and Chile have shown us.

In the area of human rights, despite the significant progress made, serious violations continue to be committed in many parts of the world. Multiple global crises have served to further deteriorate the overall human rights situation. In crafting responses to multiple global challenges, Member States should fully recognize the relevance of human rights and demonstrate further determination to work together in promoting and protecting them. Against that backdrop, my delegation looks forward to the forthcoming review of the Human Rights Council, which should serve as a good opportunity to strengthen the role of the United Nations in the field of human rights by promoting the efficiency and effectiveness of that organ.

My delegation believes that women's rights and gender issues are an essential part of human rights. However, we are concerned that progress in those areas is slow and, in some cases, is being reversed. In that regard, the emphasis of the Secretary-General in his report on the issue of gender equality and women's empowerment as indispensable goals of the United Nations is both timely and appropriate.

The United Nations has played an indispensable role in setting international norms and principles. As the United Nations makes progress on the implementation of the responsibility to protect, the world will be better prepared to prevent any recurrence of mass atrocities. The contribution of the offices of the Secretary-General's Special Advisers for the Responsibility to Protect and on the Prevention of Genocide has been highly valuable in that regard. My delegation expects that a joint office, achieved by merging those two offices, will contribute to developing conceptual norm-setting work by enhancing information-sharing, early warning and assessment.

A new consensus now seems to be forming in the international community, not only with regard to nuclear non-proliferation but also as concerns the eventual goal of a nuclear-free world. With many promising signs in every corner of the globe, we need to redouble our efforts to ensure that they lead to tangible results. In particular, my delegation welcomes

the recent high-level meeting convened by the Secretary-General aimed at revitalizing the work of the Conference on Disarmament and taking forward multilateral disarmament negotiations. We should revive the Conference as a key element in the robust machinery of the global disarmament and non-proliferation regime. With that in mind, we will spare no effort in supporting follow-up actions to the high-level meeting during the current session of the General Assembly.

More than ever, great demands are being placed on the United Nations to respond effectively to the most daunting challenges of our era. I believe that the United Nations can do better. We must persist in our efforts to strengthen the world body through reform, which will enable the United Nations to be better equipped to confront the challenges of the future. To achieve that goal, Korea fully supports the important initiatives the Secretary-General has taken to promote the efficiency, effectiveness and accountability of the Secretariat. In particular, my delegation welcomes the establishment of UN Women, a singular synergistic gender entity. My delegation believes that it will strengthen the overall accountability of the United Nations system and, at the same time, promote gender equality and the empowerment of women.

Let me conclude by renewing the Republic of Korea's support for the Secretary-General in leading the Organization effectively and carrying out its mandate successfully. The Republic of Korea remains fully committed to a strong and effective United Nations that can make our world safer, more secure, more prosperous and more peaceful.

*The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.*